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DANCE till TOMORROW

STORY AND ART BY NAOKI YAMAMOTO

vol. 6

STORY & ART BY
NAOKI YAMAMOTO

Special note: DANCE TILL TOMORROW was originally serialized in PULP magazine. This volume contains DANCE TILL TOMORROW installments from PULP Vol. 5 No. 12 through Vol. 6 No. 9 PULP's final issue). In those entirety, DANCE now continues as a graphic novel only seen here with Vol. 8 of this volume also contains four new chapters of the story beyond PULP Vol. 6 No. 9. Thanks to all PULP readers!

ENGLISH ADAPTATION
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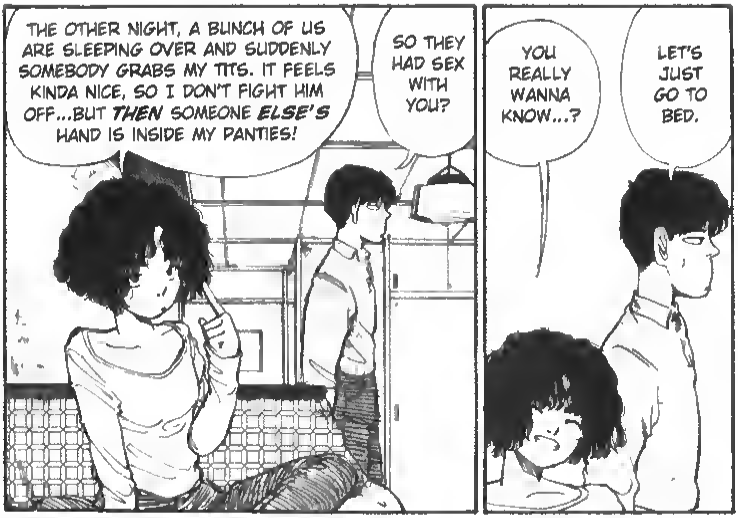
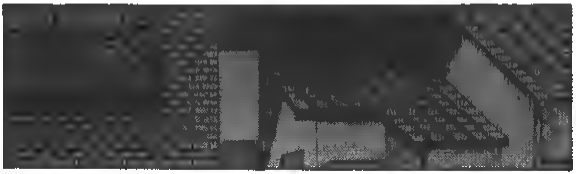
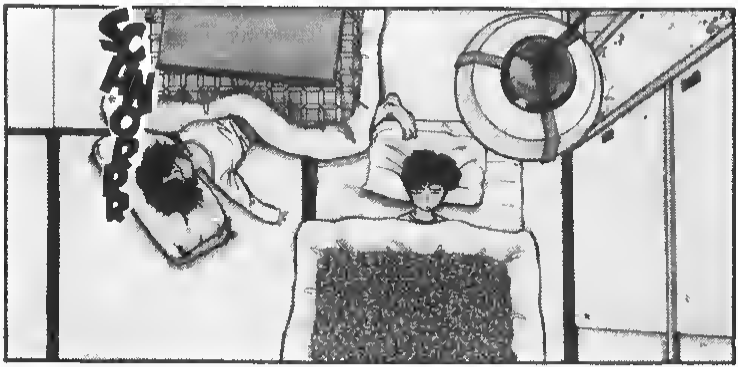
ACT ONE
FANTASY FULFILLMENT

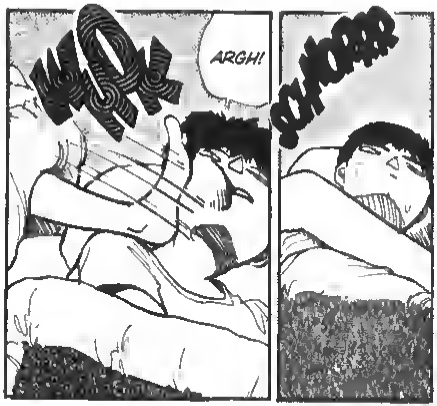
WHOA!
SCREECH
THANKS FOR THE RIDE! HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN SOON!
CAB
EVERY NIGHT, THE SAME ROUTINE...
MIND IF I CRASH AT YOUR PLACE?

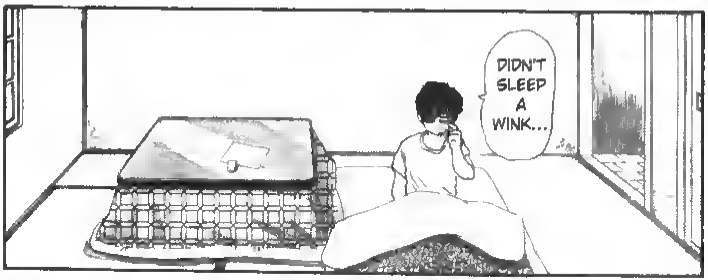
THAT ONE'S TAKEN A REAL SHINE TO ME! I GOT HIM TO TREAT ME TO SUSHI ON THE WAY HOME!
WHAT'S THAT LOSER HOPING YOU'LL TREAT HIM TO...?
YOU REALLY WANNA KNOW?
NOPE.
WHY DON'TCHA DROP BY SOMETIME? I'LL GET YOU A SPECIAL RATE. BRING YOUR COLLEGE BUDDIES!
IT'S A FUN PLACE. ASSORTED CLIENTELE. BUT AS SOON AS THE MEN SLUG BACK A FEW DRINKS, THEY'RE GROPING YOUR "T" AND "A". LIKE TONIGHT, FOR EXAMPLE...
I'M SLEEPY.
SO'M I.
BUT WE DON'T HAVE TO SLEEP...
...
FREDDY'S GOT A BATHTUB, AND HIS PLACE IS BIGGER.
THE TRUTH IS...
...THESE GUYS ATTACKED ME!

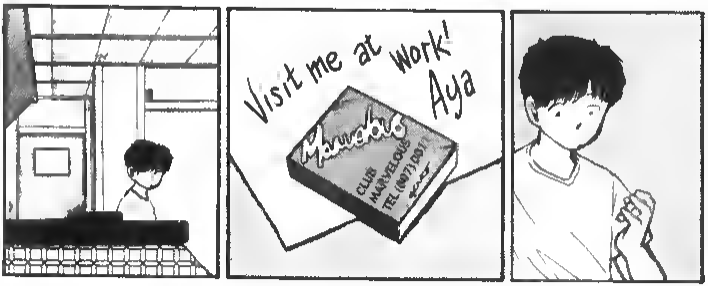

THE OTHER NIGHT, A BUNCH OF US ARE SLEEPING OVER AND SUDDENLY SOMEBODY GRABS MY TITS. IT FEELS KINDA NICE, SO I DON'T FIGHT HIM OFF...BUT THEN SOMEONE ELSE'S HAND IS INSIDE MY PANTIES!
SO THEY HAD SEX WITH YOU?
YOU REALLY WANNA KNOW...?
LET'S JUST GO TO BED.




SCHOOOR


ARGH!

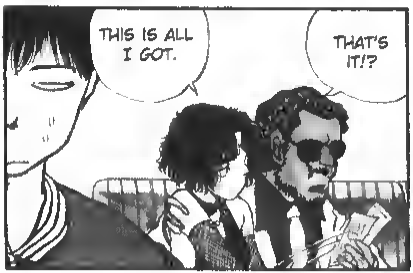

DIDN'T SLEEP A WINK...


Visit me at Work!
Aya
Marvelous
CLUB MARVELOUS
TEL (987) 001 1

OVER HERE, SUE-KICHI...

I-I HAD NO IDEA.
KNOCK YOURSELF OUT!
HEY!

HE'S JUST A FRIEND
DIDJA BRING THE DOUGH?

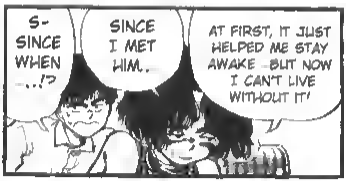

THIS IS ALL I GOT.
THAT'S IT!?

AH!
WAIT FOR ME AFTER WORK. YOU KNOW THE PLACE
GOOSH GOOSH

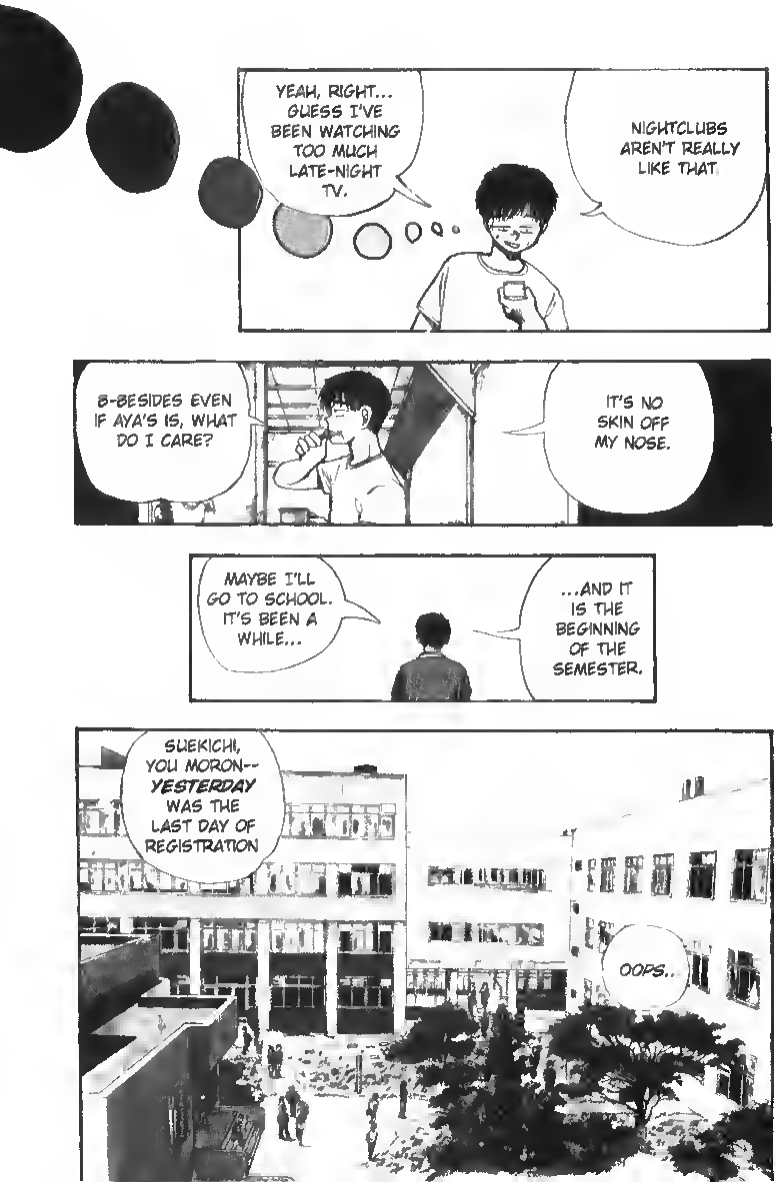
THAT'S THE GUY YOU'VE BEEN SHARING CABS WITH..?
HE'S MY BOSS'S BUDDY
WHAT "DOUGH"?
N-NONE OF YOUR BEESWAX...

W-WHAT THE HELL IS THIS!?
GIVE IT BACK!!

N-NOW I GET IT! YOU'RE SELLING YOUR BODY FOR DRUGS...
THIS IS YOUR BRAIN ON DRUGS!
FEELS SO GOOD.


S-SINCE WHEN...!?
SINCE I MET HIM..
AT FIRST, IT JUST HELPED ME STAY AWAKE -BUT NOW I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT IT!

LEAVE ME ALONE! THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU! I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO ME ANYMORE..
...AYA...


YEAH, RIGHT... GUESS I'VE BEEN WATCHING TOO MUCH LATE-NIGHT TV.
NIGHTCLUBS AREN'T REALLY LIKE THAT.
B-BESIDES EVEN IF AYA'S IS, WHAT DO I CARE?
IT'S NO SKIN OFF MY NOSE.
MAYBE I'LL GO TO SCHOOL. IT'S BEEN A WHILE...
...AND IT IS THE BEGINNING OF THE SEMESTER.
SUEKICHI, YOU MORON-- YESTERDAY WAS THE LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION
OOPS..

SO W-WHAT DO I DO NOW...?
YOU'VE PRACTICALLY DROPPED OUT ALREADY ANYWAY.
GROVEL AT THE REGISTRAR'S OFFICE.
NICE KNOWING YOU--!
I'M SORRY.
YOU'RE COMPLETELY IRRESPONSIBLE! DO YOU REALIZE THE POSITION YOU'RE PUTTING ME IN?
I'M SORRY.
I CAN'T GUARANTEE YOU'LL BE PERMITTED TO REGISTER, BUT I'LL DO MY BEST
I'M SORRY.
T-TORTURE ...
THE REGISTRARS ARE AS NASTY AS DRIVING INSTRUC-TORS.
YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE A QUARTER OF THE CREDITS YOU NEED!
NO PROBLEM. I'M NOT PLANNING TO GRADUATE IN FOUR YEARS ANYWAY.
LONG TIME NO SEE
YOU ACTUALLY EXPECT TO GRAD-UATE?
O-OF COURSE.
AREN'T YOU A JUNIOR ALREADY? THE COLLEGE YEARS SURE DO FLY BY...

GRADUATE. FIND A JOB.
GET MARRIED.
DOMESTIC BLISS.
SINCE I'LL BE GETTING MY INHERITANCE THEN, I CAN SPEND ALL MY TIME DOING THEATER NOW!
IF I LIVE TO 80...DIVIDE ¥450,000,000 BY 60... THAT WOULD BE ¥7,500,000... MONTHLY, THAT COMES OUT TO ¥625,000*..
* ABOUT $5,000
I COULD LIVE COMFORTABLY ON THAT...EVEN IF THE COST OF LIVING GOES UP, AND MY CHILDREN WOULD TAKE CARE OF ME EVENTUALLY...
WHAT ARE YOU CALCULATING?
N-NOTHING.
DOMESTIC BLISS.
TRY MY NEW DISH...
...HONEY!

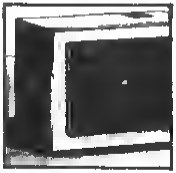
NO, NO, NO! DOMESTIC BLISS IS AN IMPOSSIBILITY WITH AYA!
I SH-SHOULDN'T EVEN BE IMAGINING HER IN THE FIRST PLACE!
SHAKA SHAKKA
WHAT'S UP, SUE-KICHI?
MAYBE HE'S SICK
HEY, DID YOU HEAR ABOUT GEKOBA?
HUH?
SHE DROP-PED OUT.
SHE WAS WORKING AT A CABARET AND SHE DID SO WELL SHE QUIT SCHOOL. NOW SHE'S A PRO.
I HEAR SHE'S MAKING BIG BUCKS.
OH YEAH? WELL I HEARD THE YAKUZA GOT HER HOOKED ON DRUGS AND SHE'S WORKING AT A SOAPLAND NOW
ISN'T THAT A CLICHÉ?
I HEAR SEX IS INCREDIBLE WHEN YOU'RE SHOOTING UP!
JUST A RUMOR.
YOU'RE SO WET
FEELS SO GOOD
HEADING HOME?
U-UNLIKE YOU GUYS, I'M A BUSY MAN.

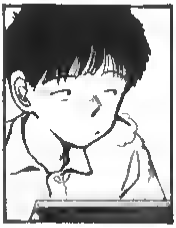
LET'S JUST SAY IKEZU CHANGED JOBS RECENTLY...

FREDDY TOLD ME.
I'VE WORKED IN CLUBS MYSELF. MET A LOT OF INTERESTING PEOPLE. SOME REAL SLEAZE BAGS, TOO, THOUGH...
NOT THAT AYA WOULD LET THEM GET AWAY WITH ANY-THING, OF COURSE.
AYA'S PRIVATE LIFE IS NONE OF MY BUSINESS.

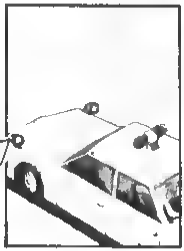
BY THE WAY, SHE DROPPED BY TO PICK UP SOME CONDOMS, LUBE, AND A DOZEN OF OUR MOST EXPENSIVE ENERGIZER DRINKS. DID YOU GUYS USE THEM YET?

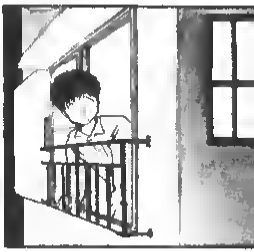
tak
tak





VROOM





GOOD EVEN-ING.

AYA NO COME TONIGHT. YOU LOOK STRESS NO CAN SLEEP?
HOW CAN YOU AFFORD TO TAKE A CAB, FREDDY?
WHAT ABOUT YOUR GOALS!?

CAN I USE YOUR PHONE FOR A SEC'?
YOU WANT CALL AYA?
N-NO, DUMMY.
I-IT'S ABOUT THE TROUPE.
UH, HELLO...
MARVE-LOUS.
I'D LIKE TO SPEAK TO AYA HIBINO, PLEASE.
HOLD ON... HEY! HAVE YOU SEEN AYA?... OH, HER SHIFT'S OVER?
SHE'S WITH KEN AGAIN? COOL!
I'M SORRY SIR, BUT SHE'S LEFT FOR THE DAY.
AYA THERE?
IT DOESN'T MATTER..
.....
I'M SUCH AN IDIOT...
..
tak tak tak

I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SATISFY YOU NOW!
YOU'RE SO WET! GRIND THAT ASS, YOU DIRTY GIRL!
AHH, OHH, EEH! I CAN'T STOP SHAKING!
STOP IT
STOP IMAGIN-ING

I JERKED OFF EIGHT TIMES THAT NIGHT.

HUNH...!
M-MORNING.

PEE...

CHAK

CHOO

EXPECTING AYA, MAYBE?
LONG TIME NO SEE.
REMEMBER ME? MUNAKATA. AYA'S EX...
HERE COMES...
...TROUBLE..

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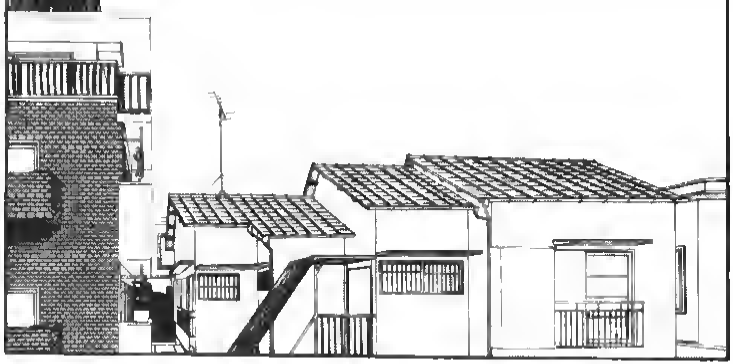
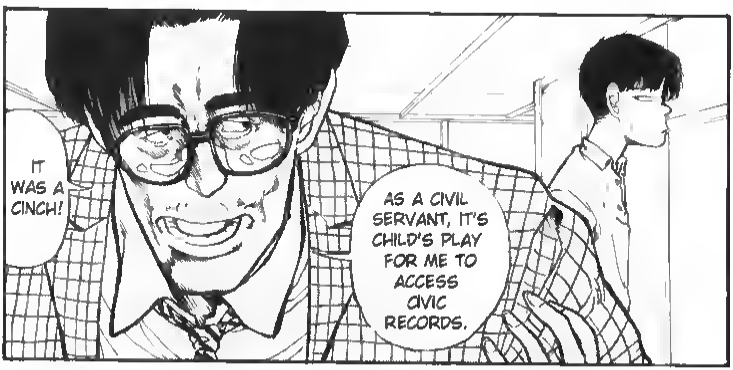
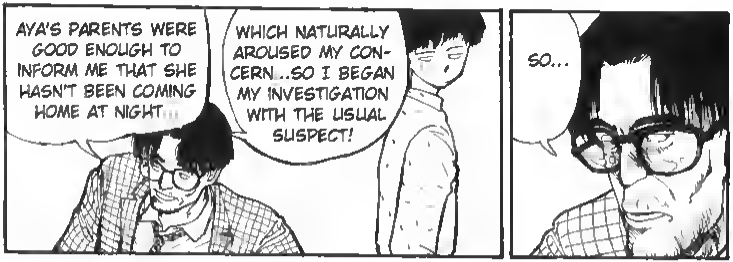
ACT TWO
JEALOUS GUY
NEW SUNNY



WONDERING HOW I FOUND YOU, HUH?

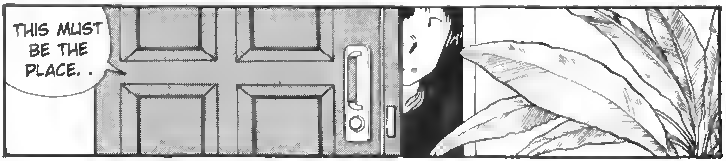

IT WAS A CINCH!
AS A CIVIL SERVANT, IT'S CHILD'S PLAY FOR ME TO ACCESS CIVIC RECORDS.


AYA'S PARENTS WERE GOOD ENOUGH TO INFORM ME THAT SHE HASN'T BEEN COMING HOME AT NIGHT...
WHICH NATURALLY AROUSED MY CONCERN...SO I BEGAN MY INVESTIGATION WITH THE USUAL SUSPECT!
SO...

IS IT TRUE THAT AYA IS A FALLEN WOMAN-- A WOMAN OF THE NIGHT?
I W-WOULDN'T KNOW. HAVEN'T SEEN HER LATELY...
ACTUALLY, I BUMPED INTO YOUR FOREIGN FRIEND JUST OUTSIDE. WHAT'S HIS NAME.. FREDDY?
W-WHAT DID HE HAVE TO SAY?
IS YOU ONE OF AYA'S "CLIENT"?
abidas
WELL?
IT'S ME! IT'S ALL MY FAULT! THE DIVORCE RIPPED HER APART, AND NOW SHE'S FINALLY HIT BOTTOM!
SHE'LL NEVER ESCAPE THE CLUTCHES OF THE YAKUZA! SHE'S TURNED INTO A HOPELESS JUNKIE! THEY'RE PROBABLY FORC-ING HER TO PERFORM UNSPEAKABLE ACTS IN UNCENSORED PORN VIDEOS EVEN AS WE SPEAK!
I-I WOULDN'T KNOW.

LURED INTO THE WORLD OF S&M, SHE'LL BECOME A SEX SLAVE--AND WHEN THEY TIRE OF HER SHE'LL BE SOLD OFF TO HONG KONG! HOW D'YOU LIKE THEM APPLES?
UH...
SAY, ISN'T THIS A MATCHBOX FROM A CLUB?
I BET AYA WORKS HERE. YOU'VE BEEN LYING TO ME ALL ALONG, HAVEN'T YOU!?
N-NOT EXACT-LY...
BUT I'M RIGHT, AREN'T I?
TAKE ME THERE.
...OKAY.

ディアナロ

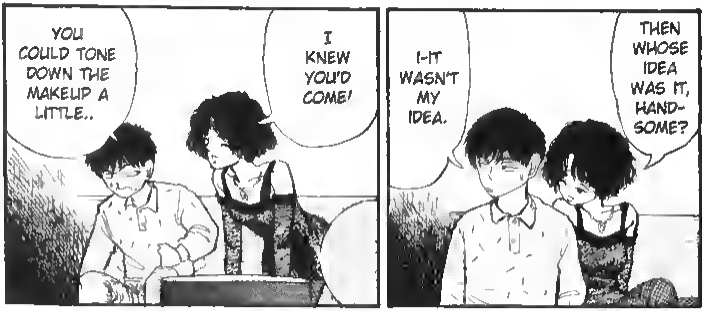

THIS MUST BE THE PLACE. .

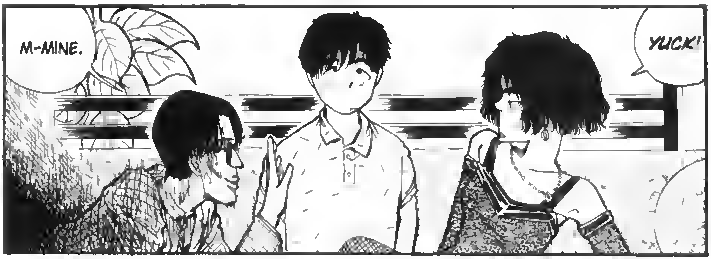
WELCOME, MR. SUE-KICHI!
HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
AYA GET ME JOB HERE. I WORK TWO JOBS NOW, SO I REAL BUSY. BUT I MAKE LOT OF MONEY.
NO WONDER YOU'VE BEEN LIVING SO HIGH ON THE HOG LATELY...

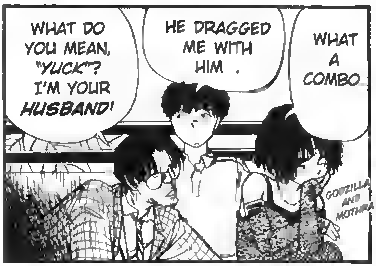
I SHOULD'VE WORN MY SUIT.
AYA-A-A-A!

I TOLD YOU, FREDDY ..CALL ME "NOZOMI" AT WORK!
WELL, LOOK WHO'S HERE!
HELLO. MY NAME IS NOZOMI!
WHATSA MATTER?
BLINDED BY MY BEAUTY?
LIKE THE OUTFIT?

VA-VA-VOOM!


YOU COULD TONE DOWN THE MAKEUP A LITTLE..
I KNEW YOU'D COME!
I-IT WASN'T MY IDEA.
THEN WHOSE IDEA WAS IT, HANDSOME?


M-MINE.
YUCK!


WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "YUCK"? I'M YOUR HUSBAND!
HE DRAGGED ME WITH HIM .
WHAT A COMBO
GONZILLA AND MOTHRA

LISTEN TO ME, AYA! THIS ISN'T YOU!!
I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE! WON'T YOU PLEASE COME HOME?

W-WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
TAKE YOU TIME, ENJOY
I'VE GOT OTHER CUS-TOMERS

I'M KANAE!
I'M TAMAE!

SHE ISN'T COMING BACK, IS SHE ..?
CLASSIER THAN I EXPECT-ED...

THAT MEANS NOTHING! HIGH-CLASS ENTERTAINMENT RUN BY HIGH-CLASS YAKUZA, THAT'S ALL!
SO YOU'RE FRIENDS OF NOZOMI?
I-I'M HER HUSBAND.
ANOTHER DRINKIE-POO?
SHE'S NEW, BUT SHE'S MEGA-POPULAR!
YOU WOULDN'T BE STARING AT MY WIFE BY ANY CHANCE, WOULD YOU?
N-NO, I WOULDN'T

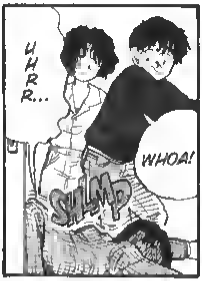
WHO ARE YOU STARING AT THEN, PRAY TELL?
NOBODY.
STOP BREATHING DOWN MY NECK
AIEEE!
I'LL TAKE YOU TO HAWAII AND WE'LL PLAY GOLF!
OOH! HOW ROMANTIC!
HEY! THAT CUSTOMER WHO SHARES CABS WITH AYA...
YOU MEAN GEN? HAVEN'T SEEN HIM TONIGHT.
SO... WHAT'S HE LIKE?
WELL, ACTU-ALLY...
YOU T-T-TRAMP! WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' IN ZHISH DEN OF INIQUITY?
TELL ME HOW M-MANY GUYSH YOU'VE SHUCKED OFF! COME ON, 'FESH UP!
I FORGOT HE CAN'T DRINK!
MUNA-KATA...
DISORDERLY CONDUCT IS STRICTLY PROHIBIT-ED.

PLEASE COME BACK TO ME, AYA! THAT'S ALL I ASK! LIFE WITHOUT YOU IS WORTHLESS NO, IT'S WORSE THAN WORTHLESS.
I KEEP H-HOPING AND P-PRAYING FOR THE DAY YOU'LL COME BACK TO ME.. WAITING FOR THE KNOCK ON THE DOOR, THE PHONE CALL THAT NEVER COMESH..
YOU MIGHT WANT TO GET SOME HELP..
HERE ARE FIVE JOURNALS IN WHICH I POUR OUT MY HEART LIKE THISH! PLEASE! PLEASE READ THEM!
NO THANKS.
JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!
AYA-A-A!
ACK!
S-STOP IT!
IF YOU ONLY UNNERSHTOOD HOW MUCH YOU MEAN TO ME! HOW I WORRY ABOUT YOU, MORNING, NOON, AND NIGHT!
SLUMP
WHUD

HE CAN'T HOLD HIS LIQUOR, AND HE WAS REALLY SLAMMING THOSE SHOTS...
SCNOR
WHY ARE YOU WORKING HERE, REALLY, AYA!?
HM?
YOU AREN'T BROKE. YOU LIKE YOUR JOB AT THE DAY CARE. AND IF THEY EVER FOUND OUT...
ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT ME?
I- I'M JUST...
NOZOMI!
COM- ING!
YOU JUST WORKING HERE TO MAKE SUEKICHI JEALOUS, HUH?
MIND YOUR OWN BEESWAX, FREDDY.

Exclusive
CLUB
Marvelous

READY!
JOIN US, FREDDY?
I VISIT MY FRIENDS.


UHRR...
WHOA!
SWAMP

WHAT ABOUT HIM?
JUST LEAVE HIM
SWAP

HE DIDN'T PAY UP...
NO SHAME
SWAP

I'VE ONLY GOT THREE SHIFTS A WEEK, AND IT'S PRETTY GOOD MONEY FOR JUST LISTENING TO MEN SHOOT THE BREEZE FOR FOUR OR FIVE HOURS.
SOMETIMES IT'S EVEN INTERESTING THE CLIENTELE ARE REALLY DIVERSE
SEEMS OKAY, I GUESS ..

SO... YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT ME!
NAH

YOU'RE FLAKY, BUT DEEP DOWN INSIDE, YOU'VE GOT YOUR ACT TOGETHER

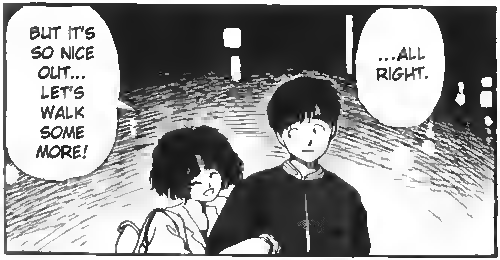
..
IT MUST BE HARD LOVING SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T LOVE YOU BACK
YOU MEAN MUNAKATA?
HM?
DID YOU SAY SOME-THING?
HE'S IN LOVE WITH HIS OWN MISERY.
YOU CAN RELATE, CAN'T YOU?
THINGS HAPPENED SO FAST WITH MIYUKI... I NEVER HAD TIME TO DWELL ON THEM...
YOU'RE LUCKY YOU HAVE ME!
UH-HUH.

DO YOU LIKE ME?
WHAT A QUES-TION!
YOU'RE ACTING KINDA FUNNY...
ARE YOU DRUNK?
MAYBE...
AM I ACTING FUNNY?
THAT'S OKAY!
IT'S SO BALMY TONIGHT.
IT'S SPRING.
I... I WANT TO KISS YOU.
YOU ARE DRUNK!
SO I CAN'T?

BA'BUMP
BA'BUMP
BA'BUMP

TEE HEE!
THAT WAS NICE...
STOP GIGGLING
TAXI'S COMING.
TAXI

THAT NIGHT COULD HAVE LASTED FOREVER...


BUT IT'S SO NICE OUT... LET'S WALK SOME MORE!
...ALL RIGHT.

WAKE UP!
THUP
URMPH...
YOU MEAN YOU TOOK ADVANTAGE OF ME AGAIN WHILE I WAS SNOCKERED?
YOU CAN'T KEEP SNEAKING INTO MY PLACE EVERY NIGHT! I'M NOT RUNNING A HOTEL HERE, Y'KNOW!
DON'T TELL ME THE ONLY REASON YOU ACTUALLY ACTED NORMAL FOR ONCE WAS BECAUSE YOU WERE DRUNK-- AND YOU DON'T REMEMBER A THING ABOUT OUR WALK HOME LAST NIGHT!
"WALK HOME"? WHEN?
ARGH MY HEAD
I HATE MORNING AFTERS!!
WHY ME...?
ELSE-WHERE...
HNRGHT

100%
ILLEGAL
MANGA
DANCE
TILL
TOMORROW
#MANGA-SKETCHBOOK@IRCHIGHWAY
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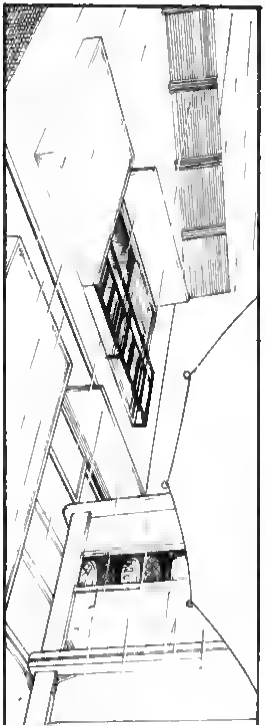
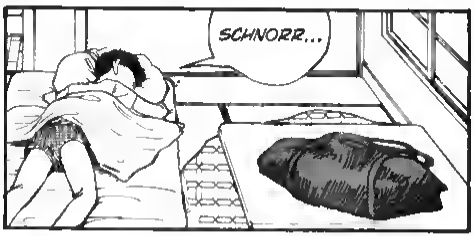
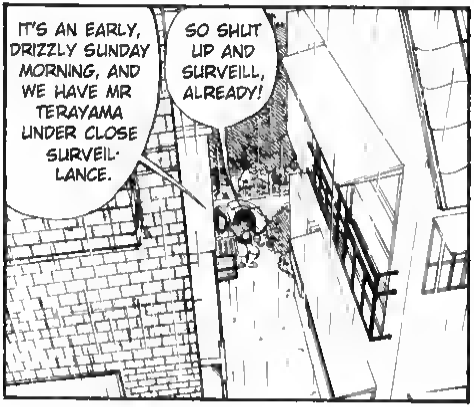
ACT THREE
APRIL SHOWERS




SCHNORR...


IT'S AN EARLY, DRIZZLY SUNDAY MORNING, AND WE HAVE MR TERAYAMA UNDER CLOSE SURVEIL-LANCE.
SO SHUT UP AND SURVEILL, ALREADY!

OUR PAINSTAKING INVESTIGATION IS SURE TO EXPOSE THE DARK SECRET BEHIND SUEKICHI'S INHERITANCE FROM OLD MAN DAIKICHI!
(THAT WAS AWFULLY EXPOSITORY... THE AUTHOR'S TURNING ME INTO HIS MOUTHPIECE!)
GROSS!
Come Come
Good
Hmmhh
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU LOOKING AT!?
OW!!
HUH?
ACK!

NRRGH...
AYA...?
WH-
WHO-
WHO...!?
...I...
YOU'RE INVOLVED WITH AYA HIBINO SOMEHOW, AREN'T YOU?

I AM MS. HIBINO'S SPOUSE!
QUITE A COMMOTION OUTSIDE...
DAMN! IT'S ONLY DRIZZLING, BUT I GOT SOAKED BY A BIKE!
...
CHUD
YOU... SPENT THE NIGHT AGAIN...?
YOU DON'T REMEMBER?
YOU WERE SNORING AWAY, SO I JUST LET MYSELF IN.

I'VE ALREADY SHOWERED AT FREDDY'S, GONE FOR A WALK, AND BOUGHT US SOME EATS.
I'LL FIX YOU SOME-THING.
YOU SAY SOME-THING?
NO BOUND-ARIES...
HM?
DON'T WORRY...
THIS IS ON ME. I WON'T MAKE YOU CHIP IN.
WELL...
...OKAY THEN
CHOP CHOP

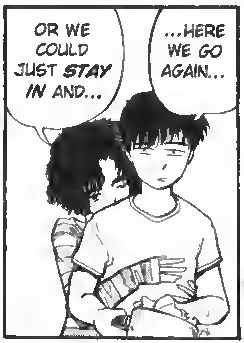
ISN'T THIS "BREAKING AND ENTERING"?
RELAX AND GRAB A BEER
SO...
...TELL ME EVERY-THING...

MILK

THE OMELET CAME OUT PERFECT! IT'S EGGPLANT AND CHEESE BETTER DIG IN BEFORE IT GETS COLD!
WHATSA MATTER?
EAT UP!
YUMMY, HUH?
YEAH.. IT'S YUMMY, ALL RIGHT
JUST CALL ME "HOLLY HOUSE-WIFE"!
.....
WHAT'S WRONG? STILL WONDERING WHY I'M HOSTESSING NIGHTS? DYING TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON BETWEEN ME AND THAT GUY I SHARE CABS WITH?
NONE OF MY BEESWAX
I KNEW IT! YOU DO CARE!
SO I'LL TELL YOU...
I DON'T WANNA KNOW!
SIGH. IF ONLY I STILL HAD MY ONE MILLION YEN SAVINGS...
WHAT DO YOU NEED IT FOR?
CURIOUS?
NOPE
SIGH. HOW ROMANTIC.
NOW I SEE
SO, COMPLETELY DISTRAUGHT AND PINING FOR. .
. .YOUR WIFE'S RETURN, YOU SPEND YOUR DAYS OFF PLAYING DETECTIVE.

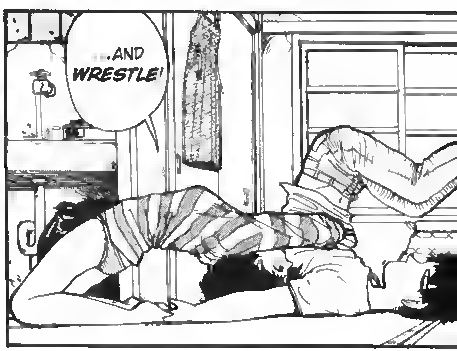
I WONDER IF THE RAIN WILL EVER STOP...

HEY, IT'S SUNDAY! LET'S GO SOME-PLACE! YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORK TILL TONIGHT, RIGHT?
THE WEATHER REPORT SAYS...


OR WE COULD JUST STAY IN AND...
...HERE WE GO AGAIN...

HEY..

WHOA!


...AND WRESTLE!

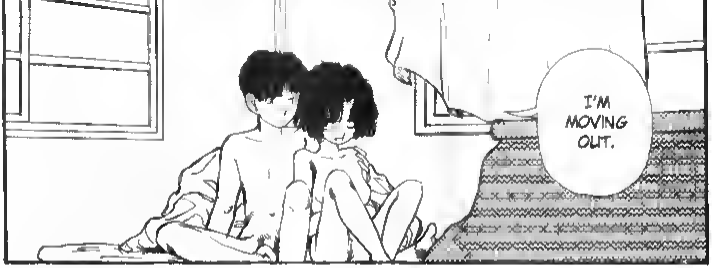
..HELLO...
HOW DARE YOU FLAUNT IT IN FRONT OF ME!
"IN FRONT OF"?
STOP! YOU CAN'T GO OVER THERE! YOU'LL MESS UP ALL OUR CAREFULLY LAID PLANS! YOU CAN'T!
ULP!
DON'T TOUCH ME!
TUMP TUMP
TUMP TUMP

ADMIT IT, SUEKICHI...
YOU LIKE IT WHEN I COME OVER, DON'T YOU?
NOT REALLY.
AREN'T YOU LONELY WHEN I'M NOT HERE?
... ...
YEAH.
WELL, THAT'S GOOD! THAT'S HEALTHY! IT MEANS YOU *LIKE* ME! AND THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS BETWEEN A MAN AND A WOMAN ..
DO YOU STILL MISS MIYUKI?
NOT THAT I CARE
IF YOU DON'T, THEN...
FACE IT, IT'S OVER. YOU DON'T REALLY WANT HER ANYMORE, ANYWAY. YOU'VE JUST GOT A GUILTY CONSCIENCE
JUST BECAUSE IT'S A RATIONALIZATION DOESN'T MEAN IT ISN'T TRUE

MAYBE WE SHOULDN'T DO IT...
MAYBE OUR WHOLE RELATIONSHIP IS A RATIONALIZATION. AND IF WE DON'T STOP, NOTHING WILL EVER CHANGE.
YOU THINK...?
..NO...
TUMP TUMP TUMP TUMP

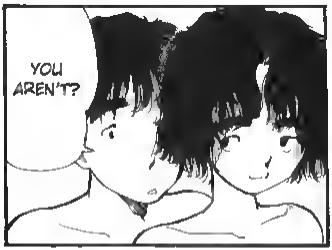
THUD
THUD
THUD
WHY'D YOU HAVE TO GO AND GET DRUNK?
CHUD
AYA-A-A-A!!

WHO TH' HELL'RE YOUSE!?
EAT MAN
FREAK.

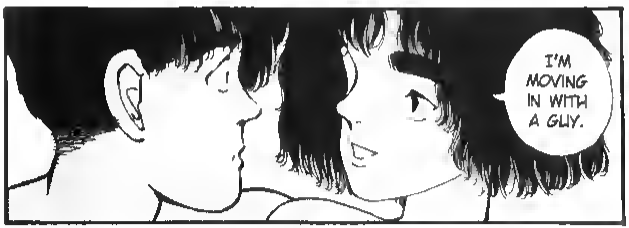

I'M MOVING OUT.

I STARTED OUT PART-TIME AT THE DAY CARE, AND NOW I'M FULL-TIME. BUT I STILL NEED TO RAISE THE DEPOSIT.
THE TIMING'S RIGHT. I CAN'T STAND LIVING WITH MY PARENTS ANYMORE. THEY KEEP NAGGING ME ABOUT GETTING MARRIED AGAIN
SO THAT'S WHY YOU'RE WORKING AT THE CLUB

CAN YOU AFFORD TO LIVE ALONE?
I'M NOT PLANNING TO LIVE ALONE.
gosh


YOU AREN'T?

...YOU MEAN..


I'M MOVING IN WITH A GUY.

HUH?
SCHNURR
LET'S LIVE TOGETHER, SUEKICHI!
PUSSY!
bi do
SUE!
DON'T TOUCH ME!!

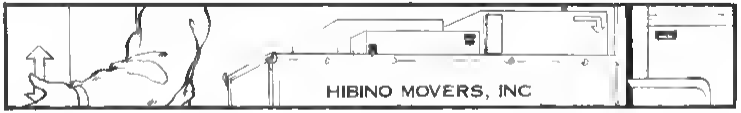
100%
ILLEGAL
MANGA
DANCE
TILL
TOMORROW
#MANGA-SKETCHBOOK@IRCHIGHWAY
HTTP://WWW.MANGA-SKETCHBOOK.ORG

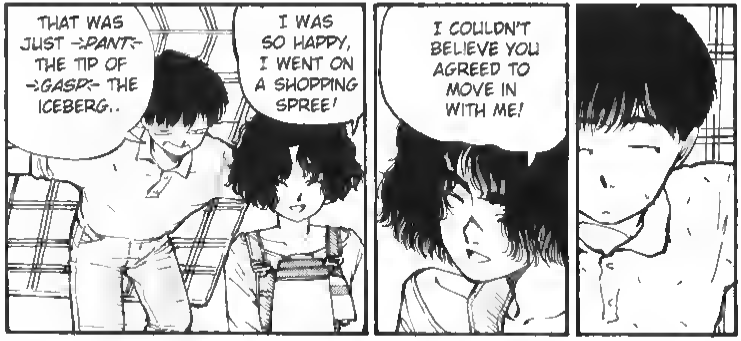
ACT FOUR
LET'S STAY TOGETHER

THIS IS EVERY-THING I OWN...
VROOM
YOO-HOO!

"HIBINO MOVERS"...?
ANOTHER OF MY DAD'S COMPANIES
EH?
LET'S GET A MOVE ON!
GAK!
I SEE YOU'VE MET MY BIG BROTHER SHOICHI
DON'T DROP THAT! IT'S BRAND NEW!
WHY DON'T YOU CARRY IT THEN?
SO...
...TELL ME.

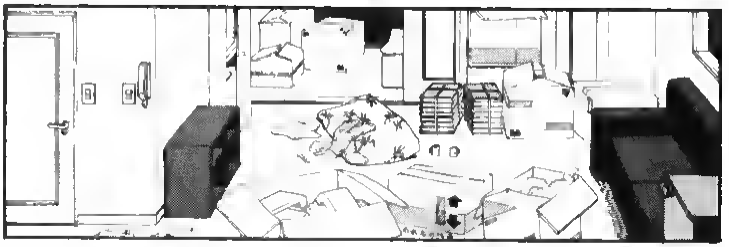
WHY DID YOU HAVE TO GO AND RENT THE ROOM ABOVE FREDDY'S?
WELL... IT WAS VACANT!

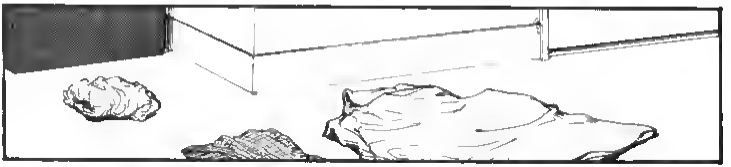

HIBINO MOVERS, INC


THAT WAS JUST ~PANT~ THE TIP OF ~GASP~ THE ICEBERG..
I WAS SO HAPPY, I WENT ON A SHOPPING SPREE!
I COULDN'T BELIEVE YOU AGREED TO MOVE IN WITH ME!

THERE'S THAT SMILE AGAIN...
IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF THAT SMILE...

LET'S LIVE TOGETHER, SUEKICHI!
SLAVING AWAY FOR THE TRAMP YOU'RE LIVING IN SIN WITH. PATHETIC...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I TOLD YOU, YOU'RE NOT GETTING RID OF ME TILL I SOLVE THE MYSTERY OF THE INHERITANCE!
MY PAINSTAKING RESEARCH HAS REVEALED THAT AYA HIBINO WAS FORMERLY THE WIFE OF A MAN NAMED MUNAKATA, WHO SHE DUMPED TO WORK THE STREETS!
WHAT A FOOL-- FALLING FOR THAT FLOOZY'S TRANS-PARENT LIES!
BESIDES, DIDN'T YOU JUST PLEDGE YOUR UN-DYING LOVE TO MIYUKI?
A SIXTH GRADER CAN'T COMPREHEND ADULT RELATIONSHIPS
I'M IN JUNIOR HIGH

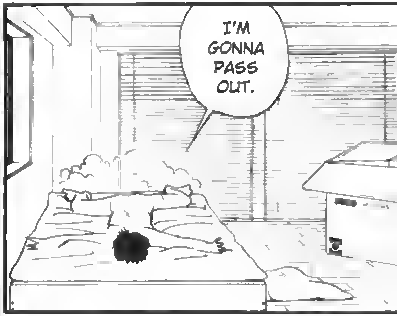


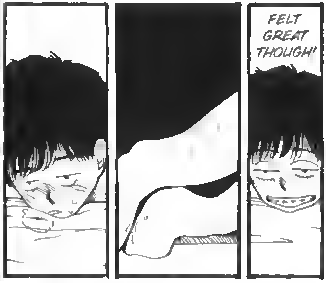


TO A JOB WELL DONE!

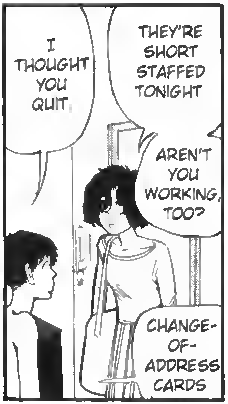
bloosh
TEE HEE...
OHH...
SO THIS IS WHY YOU MOVED IN WITH ME? SO YOU COULD DO THIS EVERY DAY?
GETTING OUT?
HEAT... GOING TO MY HEAD...
YOU'LL BE OKAY

AH!
NNNNGH!


I'M GONNA PASS OUT.


FELT GREAT THOUGH!

WHERE YOU GOING?
WORK.


I THOUGHT YOU QUIT.
THEY'RE SHORT STAFFED TONIGHT
AREN'T YOU WORKING, TOO?
CHANGE-OF-ADDRESS CARDS

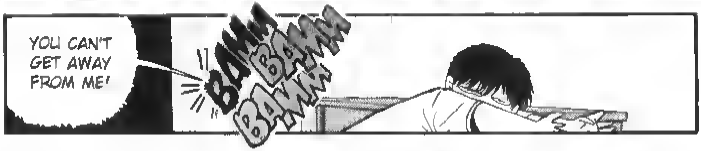
WELL...
SEE YOU SOON

I GUESS
WHUD
I GOT WHAT I WANTED

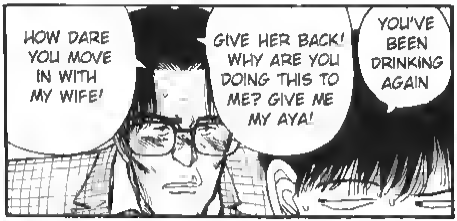
SIGH .
ARGH!
HEY, AYA! IT'S ME!
I HEAR YOU MOVED. THE CAB COMPANY GAVE ME YOUR NUMBER.
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME? PICK UP! COME ON! PLEASE? PRETTY PLEASE ..?
. . .

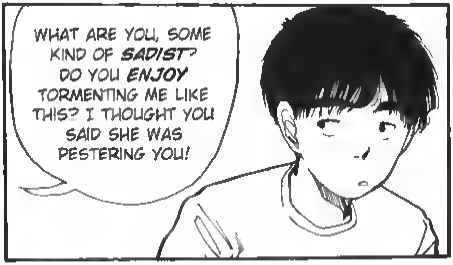
Sigh
HEY, AYA, IT'S ME! DON'T BE SO COLD!
ADDRESS CARDS! ADDRESS CARDS!
BRRRING
SORRY, AYA, BUT I'VE GOT TO WORK TONIGHT, SO I WON'T BE ABLE TO COME AND SEE YOU...
OH
HELLO. IS AYA THERE?
A LITTLE BIRDIE TOLE ME YER SHACKIN' UP WITH SOME DUDE. AREN'T I MAN ENOUGH FOR YA?
AND NO, I AIN'T DRUNK!
...
Chiok
WHAT A NIGHT!
BACK ALREADY?
AYA-A-A-A!!
WHAT AM I DOING!?
Doh!

I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE!
OPEN UP!


YOU CAN'T GET AWAY FROM ME!
BAMM BAMM BAMM

WHERE'S AYA? HUH!? WHERE IS SHE?
AT WORK

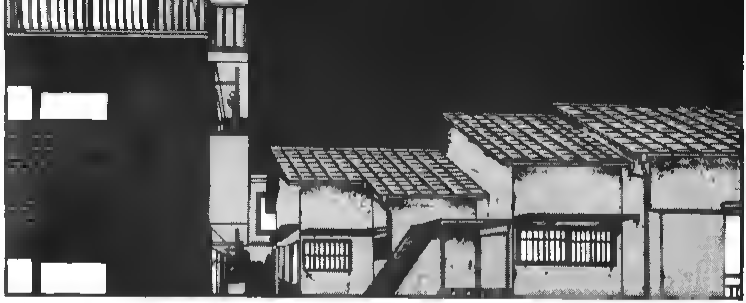

HOW DARE YOU MOVE IN WITH MY WIFE!
GIVE HER BACK! WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS TO ME? GIVE ME MY AYA!
YOU'VE BEEN DRINKING AGAIN


WHAT ARE YOU, SOME KIND OF SADIST? DO YOU ENJOY TORMENTING ME LIKE THIS? I THOUGHT YOU SAID SHE WAS PESTERING YOU!

THE HOLY VOWS OF MATRIMONY MEAN NOTHING TO YOU, DO THEY? ALL YOU CARE ABOUT IS GETTING LAID! BUT THERE'S NO ONE IN THE WORLD FOR ME EXCEPT AYA! I LOVE HER!
LEAVE NOW.
AND STOP STALKING AYA! SHE'S FED UP WITH YOU!
I LOVE AYA. THAT'S WHY I MOVED IN WITH HER.
YOU "LOVE" HER? OH, SO IN YOUR DICTIONARY "LOVE" MEANS "CONVENIENT, MEANINGLESS SEX"?

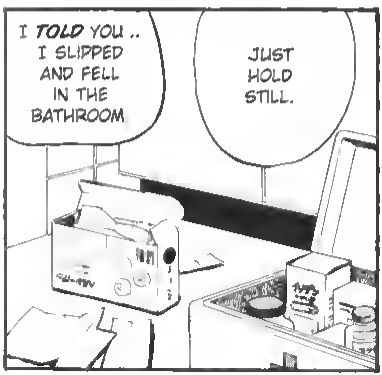
LEAVE. NOW.
IF YOU DON'T SHUT UP, I MIGHT HAVE TO HURT YOU
ARE YOU THREATENING ME? HA! THE NERVE OF SOME FOLKS... WHEN PUSH COMES TO SHOVE, THEY ALWAYS RESORT TO VIOLENCE!

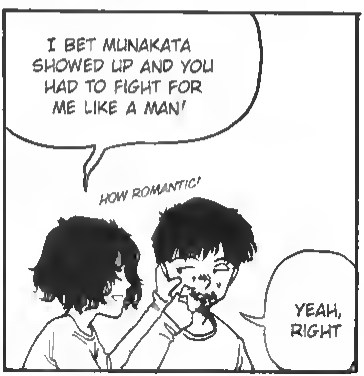
MY LOVE FOR AYA ISN'T LIKE YOUR ANIMAL HORNINESS! IT'S DEEP AND PURE AS THE DRIVEN SNOW BUT A CALLOW YOUTH LIKE YOU WOULD NEVER UNDER--
--STAND--
THRAK



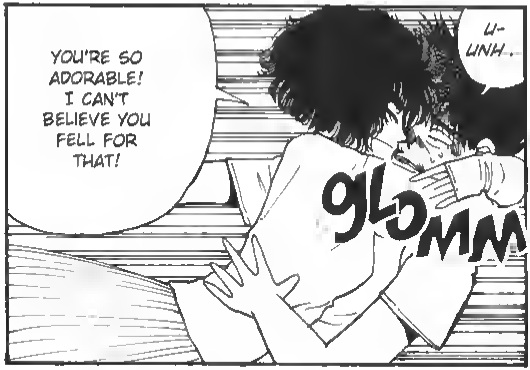
I'M HO-OME!

OH. HI..

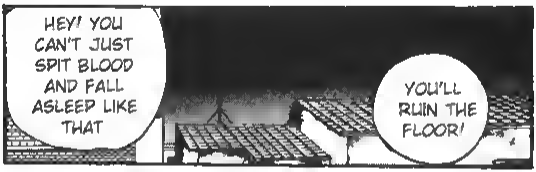

I TOLD YOU.. I SLIPPED AND FELL IN THE BATHROOM
JUST HOLD STILL.


I BET MUNAKATA SHOWED UP AND YOU HAD TO FIGHT FOR ME LIKE A MAN!
HOW ROMANTIC!
YEAH, RIGHT

BUT I JUST BUMPED INTO HIM OUTSIDE .
THAT BASTARD'S STILL AROUND!?

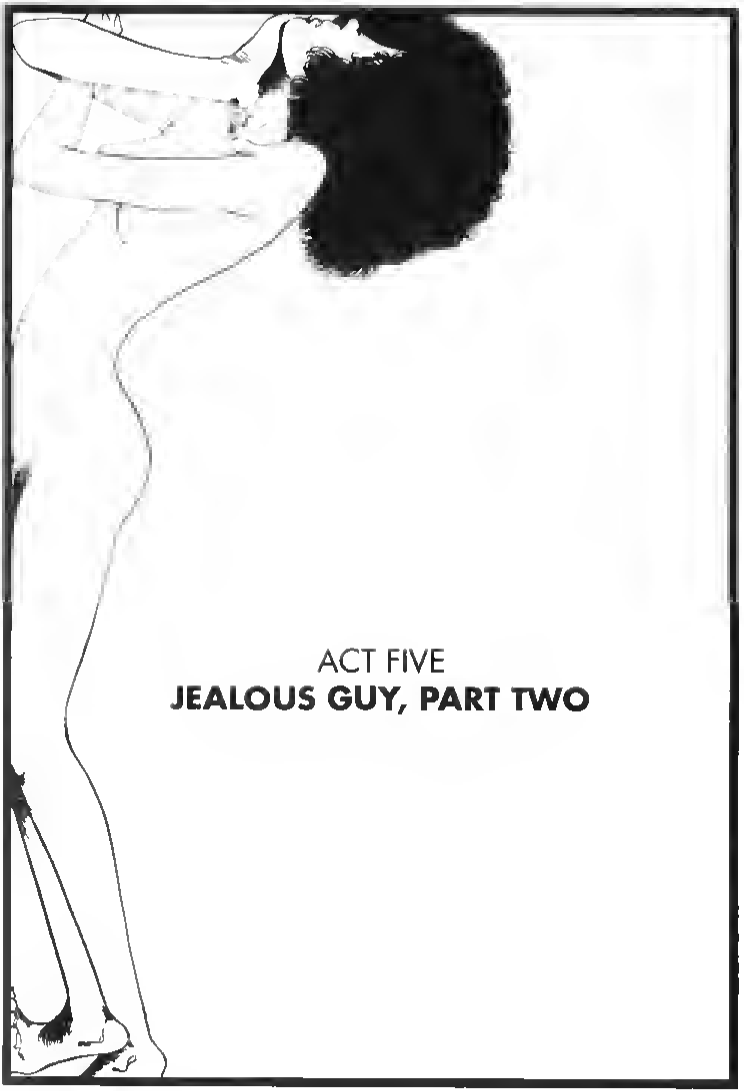

YOU'RE SO ADORABLE! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU FELL FOR THAT!
U-UNH..
GLOMM

HUH?


HEY! YOU CAN'T JUST SPIT BLOOD AND FALL ASLEEP LIKE THAT
YOU'LL RUIN THE FLOOR!

AND THUS, OUT OF MY ABSOLUTE LOVE FOR AYA..
. I SWORE THAT I WOULD NEVER GIVE UP!

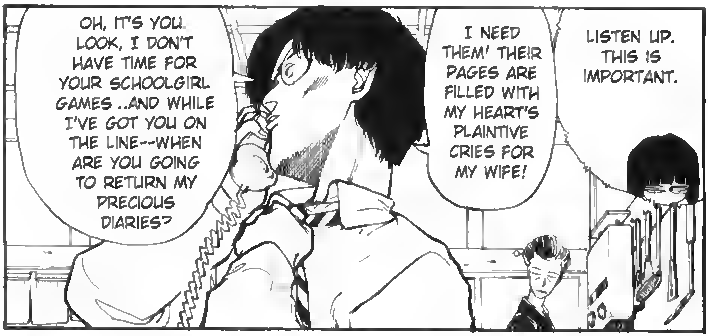
100%
ILLEGAL
MANGA
DANCE
TILL
TOMORROW
#MANGA-SKETCHBOOK@IRCHIGHWAY
HTTP://WWW.MANGA-SKETCHBOOK.ORG

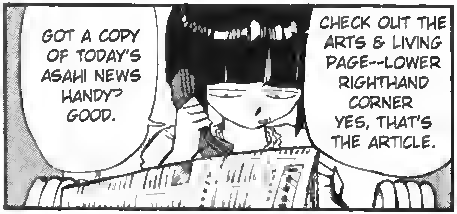


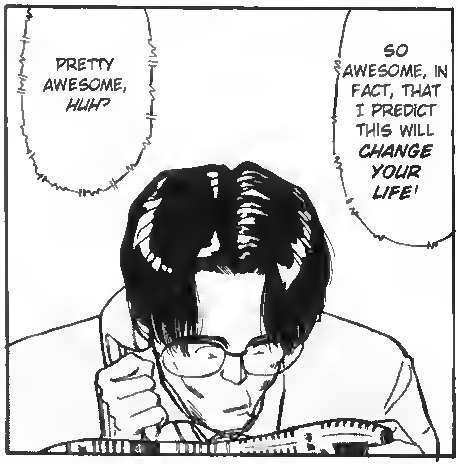
ACT FIVE

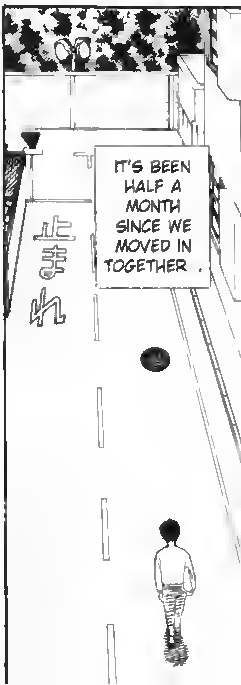
JEALOUS GUY, PART TWO

AREN'T YOU DONE WITH BREAKFAST YET?
NOT YET
BINGO!
FWAP
MR. MUNAKATA?
OH. MAY I SPEAK TO NARUHITO..? ME? JUST A FRIEND..
BIP BIP BIP
BRRRING


LISTEN UP. THIS IS IMPORTANT.
I NEED THEM! THEIR PAGES ARE FILLED WITH MY HEART'S PLAINTIVE CRIES FOR MY WIFE!
OH, IT'S YOU. LOOK, I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR YOUR SCHOOLGIRL GAMES ..AND WHILE I'VE GOT YOU ON THE LINE--WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO RETURN MY PRECIOUS DIARIES?

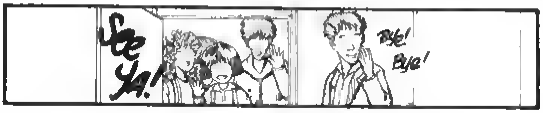

CHECK OUT THE ARTS & LIVING PAGE--LOWER RIGHTHAND CORNER YES, THAT'S THE ARTICLE.
GOT A COPY OF TODAY'S ASAHI NEWS HANDY? GOOD.


SO AWESOME, IN FACT, THAT I PREDICT THIS WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE!
PRETTY AWESOME, HUH?


IT'S BEEN HALF A MONTH SINCE WE MOVED IN TOGETHER .
止まれ

THIS IS WHERE THE NARRATOR'S SUPPOSED TO SAY, "AND THEY LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER UNTIL THE END OF THEIR DAYS."
..BUT REAL LIFE IS NO FAIRY TALE..
CHAK
...AND OUR LIFE IS JUST A SEQUENCE OF ORDINARY DAYS..
SCHNORK
SCHNORK
..HNGRH..

OH! G'MORNIN', SWEETIE!
WHADDYA MEAN, "GOOD MORNING"!?
GLAWWWW...


See Ya!
Bye! Bye!

WHAT'D YOU GO AND KICK THEM OUT FOR!? YOU SHOULDA MADE 'EM CLEAN UP FIRST!
SLAUGHTER HOUSE 6
PARTY POOPER! JUST 'CAUSE YOU HAD TO WORK LAST NIGHT...
I'M WIPED OUT. THAT GRAVEYARD SHIFT IS GONNA KILL ME.
KLONKA
HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL THOSE PEOPLE, ANYWAY?

FROM HIGH SCHOOL AND AROUND. DON'T BE JEALOUS. WE WEREN'T HAVING AN ORGY OR ANYTHING.
THIS ISN'T JUST YOUR APARTMENT, YOU KNOW.

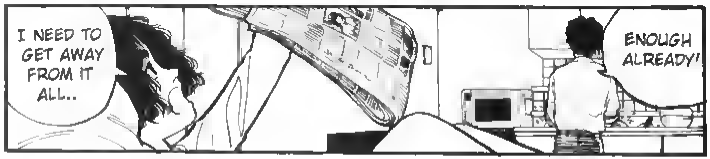
BUT I'M PAYING 70 PERCENT OF THE RENT!
TH-THE POINT I'M TRYING TO MAKE IS THAT WE'VE GOT TO KEEP SOME KIND OF ORDER IF WE'RE GOING TO LIVE TOGETHER! ANYWAY, I'M EXHAUSTED. I'M GOING TO BED

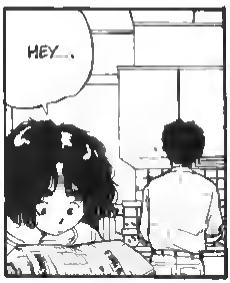
LIGHTEN UP! I'LL MAKE YOU SOME BREAK-FAST.
YOU'RE JUST CRABBY 'CAUSE YOU'RE HUNGRY--AS USUAL.
...AND THAT'S HOW I ALWAYS END UP CAVING
THESE ARE ALL LEFTOVERS FROM THE PARTY?
WHY DON'T WE GO AWAY FOR GOLDEN WEEK* LIKE EVERY-BODY ELSE!? HOW ABOUT THE HOT SPRINGS IN KUSATSU--OR HAKONE!
I DON'T HAVE THE TIME OR THE MONEY FOR LUXURIES LIKE THAT.
I'VE GOT THE MONEY. AND YOU CAN MAKE THE TIME. HOW COME WE NEVER GO OUT ANYMORE?
I'M TOO BUSY REHEARSALS ARE STARTING AGAIN FOR OUR NEXT PERFORMANCE BESIDES, EVERYTHING'S PROBABLY BOOKED UP ALREADY
BUT I REALLY, REALLY WANNA GO TO SOME HOT SPRINGS!
DAMN--NOW I WON'T BE ABLE TO STOP OBSESSING ABOUT IT!
WHY DON'T YOU GO BY YOUR-SELF, THEN?

*GOLDEN WEEK: A WEEK IN AUGUST WHEN MANY JAPANESE COMPANIES AND BUSINESSES CLOSE FOR VACATION.

SUEKICHI!

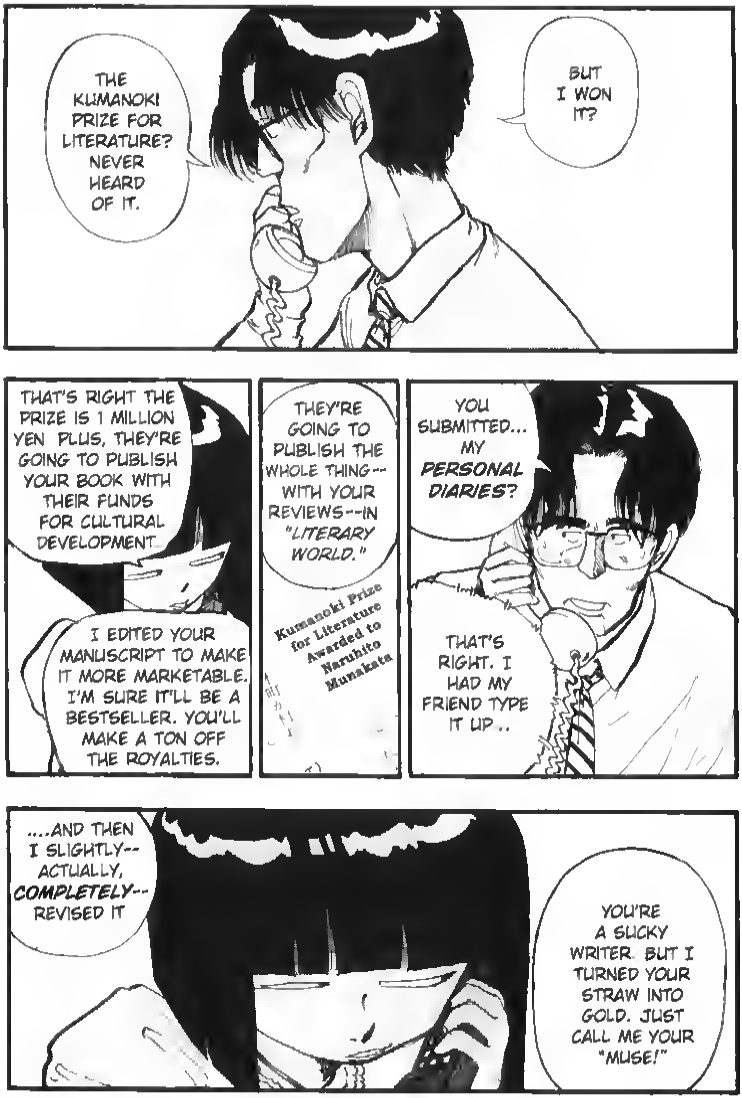
YOU PROMISED
I COOK, YOU CLEAN
...


I NEED TO GET AWAY FROM IT ALL..
ENOUGH ALREADY!


HEY...

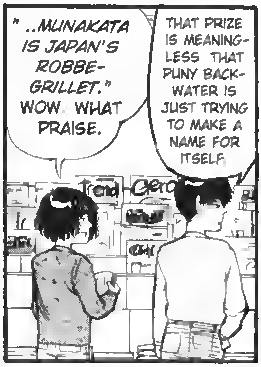
HEY, LOOK!
OWWA OWWA

Kumanoki Prize for Literature Awarded to Naruhito Munakata
Naruhito Munakata (31) will be the first recipient of the Annual Kumanoki Award for Literature for his first book 'Jealous Guy'. This prestigious award has just been established as part of a community effort to develop the village of Kumanoki in Echigo of Niigata prefecture
WEATHER REPORT
Today's Temperature (until 3 p.m.)


THE KUMANOKI PRIZE FOR LITERATURE? NEVER HEARD OF IT.
BUT I WON IT?
THAT'S RIGHT THE PRIZE IS 1 MILLION YEN PLUS, THEY'RE GOING TO PUBLISH YOUR BOOK WITH THEIR FUNDS FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.
I EDITED YOUR MANUSCRIPT TO MAKE IT MORE MARKETABLE. I'M SURE IT'LL BE A BESTSELLER. YOU'LL MAKE A TON OFF THE ROYALTIES.
THEY'RE GOING TO PUBLISH THE WHOLE THING--WITH YOUR REVIEWS--IN "LITERARY WORLD."
Kumanoki Prize for Literature Awarded to Narihito Munakata
YOU SUBMITTED... MY PERSONAL DIARIES?
THAT'S RIGHT. I HAD MY FRIEND TYPE IT UP..
....AND THEN I SLIGHTLY--ACTUALLY, COMPLETELY--REVISED IT
YOU'RE A SUCKY WRITER. BUT I TURNED YOUR STRAW INTO GOLD. JUST CALL ME YOUR "MUSE!"

HOMEFINDERS
Weekly Home Report
KYÛKEN BOOKSTORE
TEL 000-1234

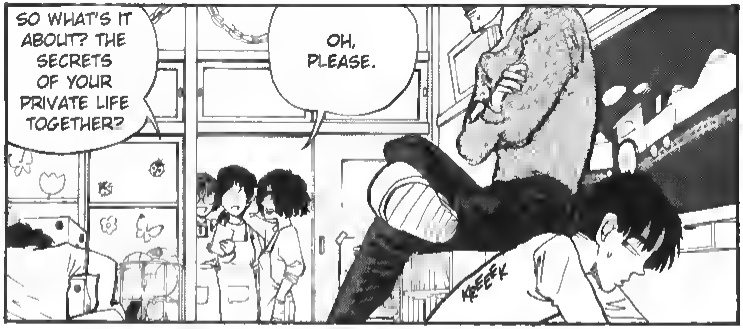
"THIS THIRD-PERSON NARRATIVE OFFERS A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE TIRED STEREOTYPE OF A JEALOUS MIDDLE-AGED MAN STALKING HIS UNFAITHFUL WIFE...
...BRILLIANTLY CHARACTERIZING THE CRAZED RANTING AND RAVING OF THE PROTAGONIST AS HE INEXORABLY DESCENDS INTO MADNESS."

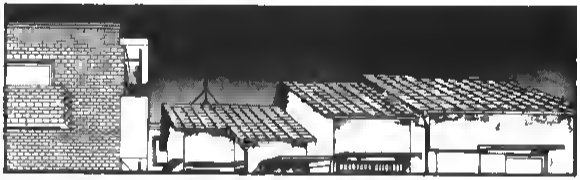

"..MUNAKATA IS JAPAN'S ROBBE-GRILLET." WOW. WHAT PRAISE.
THAT PRIZE IS MEANING-LESS THAT PUNY BACK-WATER IS JUST TRYING TO MAKE A NAME FOR ITSELF.

JEALOUS 'CAUSE I'M INTERESTED IN MUNAKATA FOR ONCE?
YEAH, RIGHT.

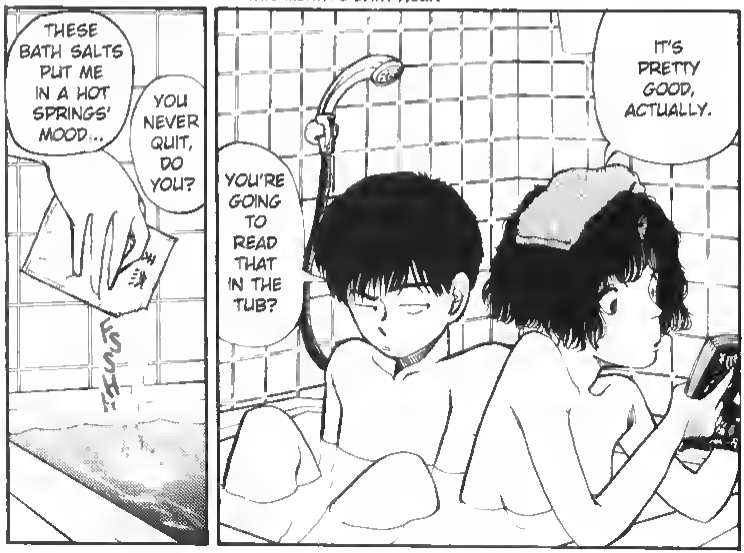
WHAT A NUT! COMPETING WITH THAT BOZO--
KUH?

IT'S SO KIND OF YOU TO PERMIT US TO USE YOUR FACILITIES AGAIN.
OH, NOT AT ALL. MY PLEASURE. I'VE ALWAYS LOVED THE THE-YA-TER AND I'M SO LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR NEXT PERFORMANCE.
DID THEY TRICK YOU AGAIN, FREDDY?
YOU'RE STILL HERE?
H'LO.
I'VE GOT A PART FOR YOU, TOO, AYA
HUH?
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR GIRL-FRIEND? DUMPED YOU, DIDN'T SHE? THAT'S WHY YOU'VE COME BACK, ISN'T IT?
SHE SAID SHE HAD SOME IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO ..
REALLY!? HE'S YOUR EX-HUSBAND!?
WOW! WHAT AN ACCOMPLISH-MENT!





THIS MONTH'S BATH HOUR

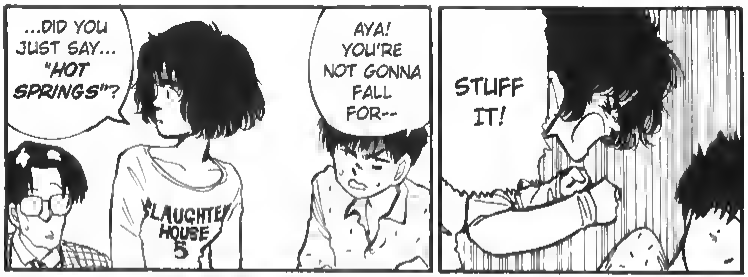

THESE BATH SALTS PUT ME IN A HOT SPRINGS' MOOD...
YOU NEVER QUIT, DO YOU?
SSSSH...
YOU'RE GOING TO READ THAT IN THE TUB?
IT'S PRETTY GOOD, ACTUALLY.

AND IT'S ALL ABOUT US. IT MUST BE BASED ON HIS DIARIES-- THE EDITOR JUST SUBSTITUTED "JEALOUS GUY" FOR "I".
TACKY.
LITERARY WORLD
THE CRITICS HAVE IT ALL WRONG! "...THE CRAZED RANTING AND RAVING OF THE PROTAGONIST AS HE INEXORABLY DESCENDS INTO MADNESS." THAT'S NOT "RANTING AND RAVING!"
THOSE ARE THE TORTURED CRIES OF MY PURE HEART GIVING VOICE TO THE DEPTHS OF MY LOVE!
GENIUS IS ALWAYS DOOMED TO BE MISUNDER-STOOD.
IS MY WIDDLE GWEEN-EYED MONSTER JEALOUS 'CAUSE I CAN'T PUT MUNAKATA'S BOOK DOWN?
UH-HUH. COME CLOSER AND I'LL SHOW YOU HOW JEALOUS I AM.
LITERARY WORLD
AYA...
DONG
QUIT THAT! YOU'RE GETTING THE BOOK ALL SOGGY!

HELLO. SORRY TO INTRUDE...
I'VE BEEN INCREDIBLY IN DEMAND LATELY.
I'VE NEVER CONSIDERED MAKING MY LIVING AS A WRITER. BUT EVERYONE KEEPS EGGING ME ON.
YOU BETTER GIVE ME A PERCENTAGE OF YOUR ROYALTIES, YOU BASTARD!
YAY! I GOT AN AUTO-GRAPH!
SNEEE

I WISH YOU'D QUIT WASTING YOUR TIME ON THAT LOSER
OH, STOP BEING SUCH A CURMUDGEON. WE'VE NEVER KNOWN SOMEBODY FAMOUS BEFORE!
WHAP!
I BET LOTS OF FAMOUS PEOPLE SHOW UP AT THESE AWARD CEREMONIES! AND NOW YOU'RE ONE OF THEM!
AW, SHUCKS...
GROUP-IES
WHICH...
...RE-MINDS ME...
WILL YOU DO ME THE HONOR OF ATTENDING THE AWARD CEREMONY WITH ME .
...AS MY WIFE?

THE VILLAGE THAT SPONSORS THE PRIZE IS HOLDING THE AWARD CEREMONY NEXT WEEK
IT SEEMS TO ME THAT I'VE EARNED THE RIGHT TO INVITE YOU. PLEASE DO ME THE HONOR OF STANDING BY MY SIDE AS AYA MUNAKATA
GIMME A BREAK! IT'S OVER! WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO GET THAT THROUGH THAT THICK SKULL OF YOURS!?
SO THAT'S WHAT YOU CAME FOR. GO ON, GET OUTTA HERE! SUEKICHI-- SEE HIM OUT!
THAT'S THE SPIRIT!
B-BUT...
THE VILLAGE WECOMES US BOTH... AND IT'S NESTLED BETWEEN SCENIC MOUNTAINS!
SLAUGHTER HOUSE 5
SO WHAT DO YOU NEED YOUR EX-WIFE THERE FOR? PLANNING A SECRET BURIAL?
DON'T BE LIKE THAT... WE'LL HAVE A NICE RELAXING VACATION GOURMET FOOD... HOT SPRINGS...
SLAUGHTER HOUSE 5

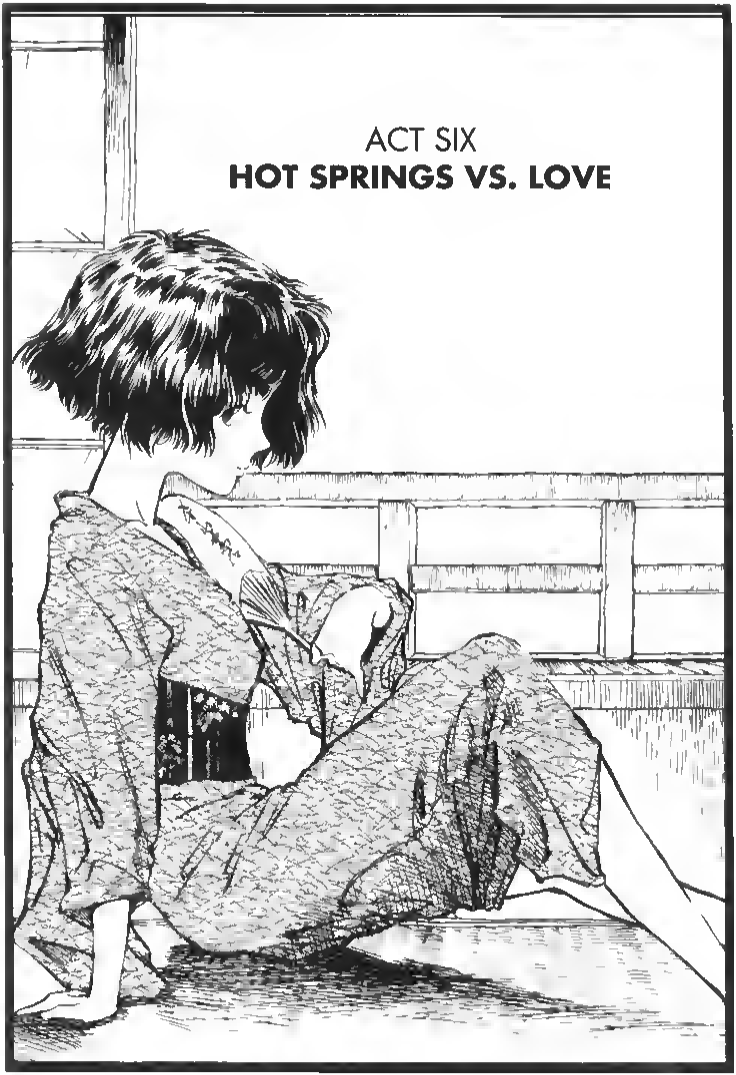

...DID YOU JUST SAY... "HOT SPRINGS"?
SLAUGHTER HOUSE 5
AYA! YOU'RE NOT GONNA FALL FOR--
STUFF IT!

TH-THAT'S RIGHT. THEY'RE IN THE TOP THREE ON THE LIST OF "BEST-KEPT SECRET" HOT SPRINGS. THEY'VE GOT HUGE OPEN-AIR PUBLIC BATHS AND THEY SERVE WILD BOAR WITH WILD MUSHROOMS, CHAR FISH, YAMAME SAKÉ...
WHAT AM I, A TRAVEL AGENT?
I'LL THINK ABOUT IT...

.....
REALLY!?
I'M THINKING
PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER, AYA!

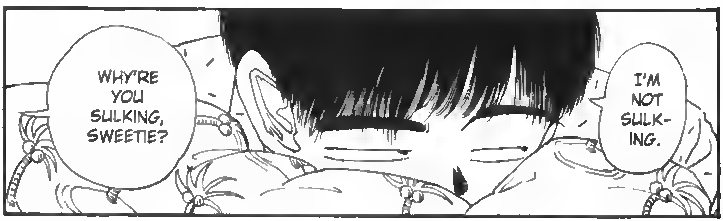
TWENTY-ODD YEARS LATER, THIS YOUNG WOMAN-- SUE TERAYAMA--IS DESTINED TO BECOME A FAMOUS EDITOR, RENOWNED AS THE DON OF JAPAN'S PUBLISHING WORLD. BUT NO ONE KNOWS THAT YET.
HUH?
THAT'S A STORY THAT REMAINS TO BE TOLD

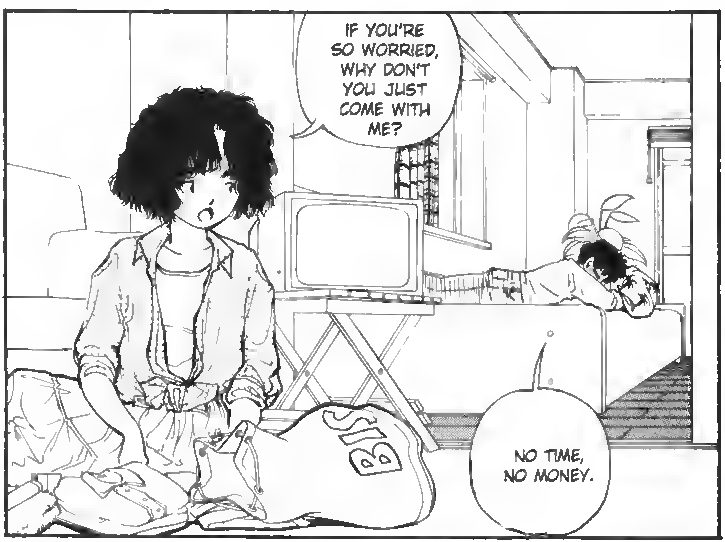
100%
ILLEGAL
MANGA
DANCE
TILL
TOMORROW
#MANGA-SKETCHBOOK@IRCHIGHWAY
HTTP://WWW.MANGA-SKETCHBOOK.ORG



ACT SIX

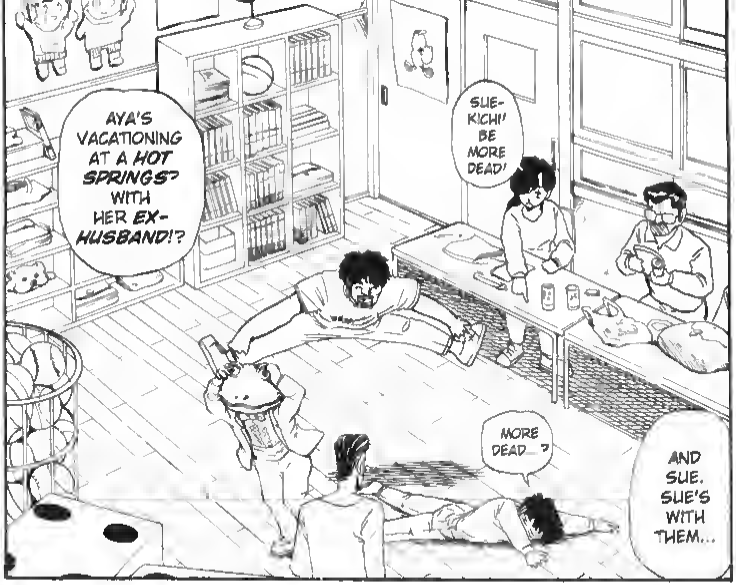
HOT SPRINGS VS. LOVE


WHY'RE YOU SULKING, SWEETIE?
I'M NOT SULK-ING.

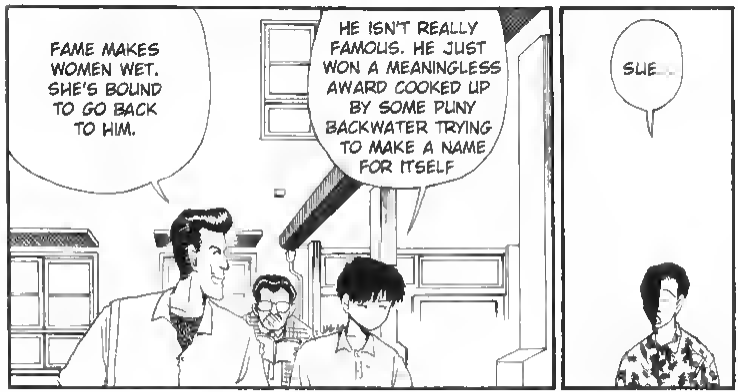

IF YOU'RE SO WORRIED, WHY DON'T YOU JUST COME WITH ME?
NO TIME, NO MONEY.

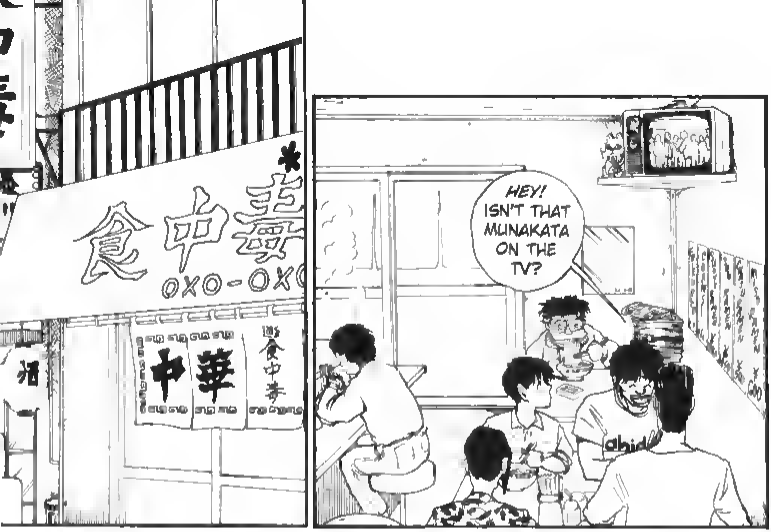
I TOLD YOU-- I'VE GOT THE MONEY.. AND YOU DO TOO HAVE THE TIME!
SHE'S SUCH A HOT SPRINGS' FAN, SHE'S WILLING TO GO BACK TO HER EX-HUSBAND JUST TO SOAK IN ONE
WHAT A WILD IMAGINATION! I JUST WANT A VACATION, THAT'S ALL.
WHAT--YOU WANT ME TO PASS ON THIS OPPORTUNITY JUST BECAUSE YOU FEEL FUNNY ABOUT ME GOING?
LOVE DOESN'T MEAN GIVING UP YOUR LIFE!
....
WELL, WHEREVER THAT MAMA'S BOY GOES..
.. HIS HARPY OF A MOTHER IS SURE TO FOLLOW.. AND SHE HATES AYA .
SO THERE WON'T BE ANY OPPOR-TUN-ITIES FOR..

WE'RE HERE!
I'M MANAG-ING MUNA-KATA'S BOOK TOUR.
WHAT?
I THOUGHT HIS MOTHER WAS GOING WITH HIM...
ARE YOU KIDDING? I SWORE I WOULDN'T GO UNLESS HE LEFT HER AT HOME.
SEE YA!
I'LL BRING YOU SOME SOUVENIRS!
AND OFF SHE WENT...

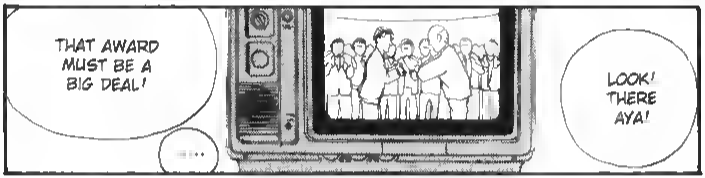

AYA'S VACATIONING AT A HOT SPRINGS? WITH HER EX-HUSBAND!?
SUE-KICHI! BE MORE DEAD!
MORE DEAD...?
AND SUE. SUE'S WITH THEM...

KUMANOKI WELCO
WHAT AN HONOR TO MEET YOU...
NAKATA


FAME MAKES WOMEN WET. SHE'S BOUND TO GO BACK TO HIM.
HE ISN'T REALLY FAMOUS. HE JUST WON A MEANINGLESS AWARD COOKED UP BY SOME PUNY BACKWATER TRYING TO MAKE A NAME FOR ITSELF
SUE...



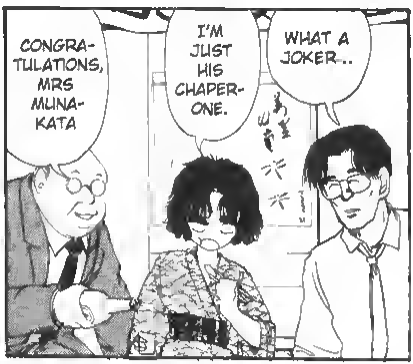
* CHEZ FOOD POISONING



SHE'S SLIPPING FURTHER AND FURTHER OUT OF YOUR GRASP..
OH, PUT A LID ON IT.
NEVER TRUST A DAME. THE SECOND YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT 'EM IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND--
--I DON'T!

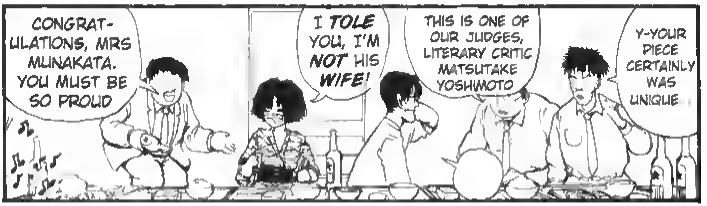
KUMANOKI HOT SPRINGS WAS FREQUENTED BY THE GREAT WRITER KAITARO YONASHI. OUR LOCALE ALSO PROVIDED THE SETTING FOR THE FAMOUS NOVEL KUMANOKI. HENCE, IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE THAT WE HAVE THE HONOR OF HOSTING YOU.
Kumanoki Prize for Literature

A TOAST TO OUR WINNER, MR. MUNAKATA, AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR FAIR CITY!
KANPAI!


CONGRATULATIONS, MRS MUNAKATA
I'M JUST HIS CHAPERONE.
WHAT A JOKER...

st Annua
Prize for
THISH CHEF ROCKS!
H-HAVE ANOTHER DRINK

TRYIN' TO GETCHER EX-WIFE D-DRUNK SO YOU C'N TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HER, EY?
D-- DON'T BE SILLY...


CONGRATULATIONS, MRS MUNAKATA. YOU MUST BE SO PROUD
I TOLE YOU, I'M NOT HIS WIFE!
THIS IS ONE OF OUR JUDGES, LITERARY CRITIC MATSUTAKE YOSHIMOTO
Y-YOUR PIECE CERTAINLY WAS UNIQUE

THUNDER BURGER
THUNDER BURGER

WHOA...
HAD TOO MUCH TO DRINK? FEELING SICK?
LET'S GET SOME AIR.
YER.. JUSH TRYIN' TA..
N-NO, I'M NOT.
HUNH? WHER'M I?
ALONE AT LAST.
Y-- YOU.. TRICKED ME!

THERE'S NO ESCAPE FOR YOU NOW! I PUT A SLEEPING DRAUGHT IN YOUR BEER!
Y--- YOU ANI-MAL
HOW CAN THIS BE WRONG? WE'RE STILL MARRIED!
YOU BEAST.
SHLOP
FEELS GOOD, HUH?
SHIP SHIP SHIP
I KNOW YOU INSIDE AND OUT.
SHOOMP
AH!
YOUR LIPS SAY "NO," BUT LOOK HOW WET YOUR OTHER LIPS ARE! DOESN'T THIS FEEL GOOD? MOVE YOUR ASS AND SHOW ME HOW YOU LIKE IT, AYA!

YUMMY
KEEP YOUR MIND ON YOUR WORK, TERAYAMA!
TH OK
HUH?
THUNDER BURGER
YOU BE DRINK-ING?
NEXT TIME, I'LL DOCK YOUR PAY.
SUE'S SO DISTANT THESE DAYS! AND SHE WENT AWAY WITHOUT ME...
EVER SINCE MUNAKATA GOT FAMOUS, SHE ONLY WANTS TO BE WITH HIM! IS THAT HOW WOMEN ARE? HOW MEN ARE...?
N-NO...
AYA'S SLOSHED MUNAKATA GRABBED HER. THEY'VE DISAPPEARED INTO THE NIGHT.
WHAT IF MUNAKATA TRICKS HER INTO BED!? WHAT'LL I DO THEN!?
I-I'M TELLING YOU...THAT'S NOT GONNA HAPPEN!
PHONE, SUEKICHI
IT'S ME.

SO? WHAT D'YOU EXPECT ME TO DO ABOUT IT?
IF YOU TAKE THE LAST BULLET TRAIN, YOU CAN MAKE IT HERE BY DAWN
WHY DON'T YOU PROVE YOU'RE A MAN FOR ONCE?
I'VE GOT A WOMAN'S INTUITION. AND IT TELLS ME THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING, SHE'S GOING TO FALL FOR MUNAKATA
Knock
Voop Voop
TWO BURGERS TO GO.
COMIN' UP.
YOU NO GO?
YOU KNOW I CAN'T.
YOU ASK FOR TIME OFF--OR SAY YOU SICK
I'M BROKE. BESIDES I CAN'T GET THERE TILL MORNING ANYWAY. AND BY THEN IT'LL BE TOO LATE. GUESS THIS WAS JUST MEANT TO BE

IF YOU GO NOW, WORST THING HAPPEN YOU MAKE MISTAKE. BUT IF YOU STAY, YOU LEAVE IT TO--HOW YOU SAY?--FATE.
NOW IS ONLY CHANCE YOU GET BEAT FATE
THUNDER BURGER
THUNDER BURGER

I LEND YOU MONEY DUE ON PAYDAY INTEREST COMPOUNDED DAILY, ONLY 1%
FREDDIE...
I HEARD EVERYTHING! *SOB!* HERE-- TAKE THIS!

WE CLOSED NOW.
SNIF!
SNIF!
AH, THE SORROWS OF YOUTH
THUNDER BURGER
THUNDER

LAST TRAIN: 21 58

WAS THAT...?
くまのきおんせん
熊ノ木温泉
KUMANOKI ONSEN
しかのき
SIKANOKI
いのき
INOKI
YOU'RE KIDDING!
SUEKICHI CAME AFTER ME?
WHAT'LL I DO WITH ALL THESE SOUVENIR SNACKS..?
YOU TWO SHIPS FLY BY IN NIGHT.
WH-WHERE'S MY SUE!?
abidas
SUE..
WHY D'YOU THINK?
WHY YOU COME BACK?

MUNAKATA TOTALLY LOST IT--AS USUAL. HE GOT DRUNK AS HELL, AND THEN HE WAS ALL OVER ME--AS USUAL. SO I KICKED HIS ASS--AS USUAL AND THEN I HOPPED ON THE FIRST TRAIN BACK THIS MORNING
DANG
DANG
DANG
DANG
AYA! I'VE DONE YOU WRONG! PLEASE FORGIVE ME!
BAMM
BAMM
WHAT WE DO?
PRETEND WE'RE NOT HOME.
abidas
I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE! LET ME IN! IT'S ME, NARUHITO MUNAKATA!
BAMM
BAMM
LET'S MAKE A FRESH START! IT'LL WORK THIS TIME!
KLAK
OOPS! WHAT'S A HOT SPRINGS EPISODE WITHOUT A STEAMY HOT SPRINGS SCENE?
HOW...
....RELAX-ING.

100%
ILLEGAL
MANGA
DANCE
TILL
TOMORROW
#MANGA-SKETCHBOOK@IRCHIGHWAY
HTTP://WWW.MANGA-SKETCHBOOK.ORG

ACT SEVEN
EVERYDAY LIFE

I'M HOME
MMNGHH... OH. G'MORNIN'.
YOU'RE AWFULLY BRIGHT-EYED AND BUSHY-TAILED. MUST BE NICE TO GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP.
LONG NIGHT AT THUNDER BURGER?

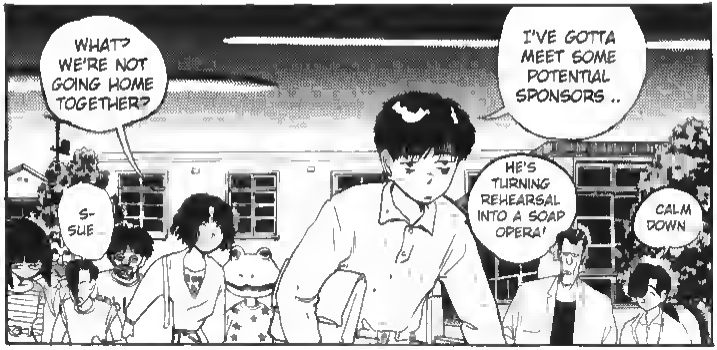
YOU'VE GOT A FEW HOURS BEFORE CLASS, RIGHT? LET'S HAVE A LITTLE NOOKIE! DON'T JUST CRASH, FOR ONCE...
I HAVEN'T HAD A DECENT NIGHT'S SLEEP IN A WEEK...
YOU SOUND LIKE A MIDDLE-AGED SALARY-MAN!
ALL YOU THINK ABOUT IS YOURSELF!
SEE? YOU'RE HARD ALREADY. YOUR LIPS SAY "NO," BUT YOUR DICK DOESN'T LIE!
NOT
HELLO. IT'S BEEN QUITE SOME TIME

I MOVED IN WITH AYA BECAUSE I LOVE HER.
YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT ME.
IF THAT MEANS LOSING MY INHERITANCE, THEN SO BE IT.
I'D RATHER HAVE AYA IN MY LIFE *NOW* THAN AN INHERITANCE IN THE *DISTANT FUTURE*.

I SEE.
WELL, IF THAT'S HOW YOU FEEL...
...I WON'T ATTEMPT TO DISSUADE YOU.
SO...WHEN DO YOU PLAN TO MAKE AYA AN HONEST WOMAN?
WELL. . HER DIVORCE STILL HASN'T COME THROUGH YET, SO...
TROUBLE
I SEE. WELL, I COULD PULL SOME LEGAL STRINGS FOR YOU IF YOU LIKE. ALL PART OF THE JOB.
I HOPE YOU CAN UNDER-STAND...
I ONLY WISH FOR YOUR HAPPI-NESS.

THAT WAS AWESOME, SUEKICHI! YOU'RE THE BEST!
TROUBLE BEACH
YOU ACT LIKE YOU COULDN'T CARE LESS, BUT DEEP DOWN INSIDE YOU'RE BURNING WITH PASSION!
SO WHEN ARE YOU GONNA START APPRECIATING ALL THIS PASSION?
WHAT? YOU'RE NOT STILL UPSET OVER THAT HOT SPRINGS THING, ARE YOU? COME ON ..
DON'T TRY TO WRIGGLE OUT OF THIS
OKAY, SO LET'S US GO ON A TRIP TOGETHER THEN!
I KEEP TELLING YOU . I'M TOO BUSY, AND I'M BROKE!
IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T WANT TO SPEND TIME WITH YOU . BUT I'VE GOT RESPONS-IBILITIES! MY JOB, THE THEATER TROUPE, SCHOOL..

SPEAKING OF WHICH-- I'VE GOTTA GET TO CLASS.
UN-GGMM
YOU DON'T REALLY CARE ABOUT ME!
IF I DON'T ATTEND CLASSES THIS YEAR, I MIGHT NOT GRADUATE!
BUT WHAT'S THE POINT OF LIVING TOGETHER IF WE NEVER SEE EACH OTHER?
WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER AT REHEARSAL THIS AFTERNOON!
GOTTA RUN..


WHAT? WE'RE NOT GOING HOME TOGETHER?
I'VE GOTTA MEET SOME POTENTIAL SPONSORS ..
S-SUE..
HE'S TURNING REHEARSAL INTO A SOAP OPERA!
CALM DOWN

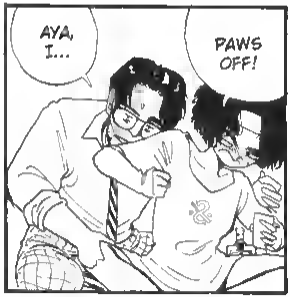
HE'S JUST *PRETENDING* TO BE BUSY ALL THE TIME.

I'M NOT SAYING WE'VE GOTTA BE TOGETHER 24-7, BUT--
WHAT?.. *NAH*, I'M NOT DRUNK. STONE-COLD SOBER
ANOTHER CALL?.. I BET... OKAY, I'LL WAIT.
ALL RIGHT, I GET THE HINT!

Cute Girl
SIGH
UNH!
AYA! IT'S ME!

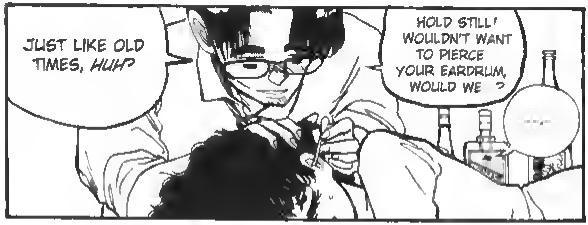
YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME, AYA..
MY EDITOR LOCKED ME UP! HE'S FORCING ME TO MEET MY DEADLINE! I DON'T EVEN WANT TO WRITE THIS PIECE! BUT HE SAYS I'VE GOT TO SUBMIT IT THIS MONTH TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR ANOTHER COMPETITION. I MANAGED TO ESCAPE BY THE SKIN OF MY TEETH.
I GUESS I COULD USE SOME COMPANY...
CHINGGG! CHANGG!
REALLY?
WANNA DRINK?
YOU'RE RE-OPENING YOUR HEART TO ME!?
DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY. IF YOU WANT IN, COME BACK WITH SOME SAKE. THERE'S A STORE ON THE CORNER.
I NEVER HAD ANY INTENTION OF BECOMING A PROFESSIONAL WRITER. I ONLY WROTE TO RELIEVE MY BURDENED HEART. I DON'T WANT TO QUIT MY DAY JOB. BUT GUESS WHAT MY EDITOR SAID...?
Whine
COMPLAIN
WHINE?
Bitch
Moan
SUEKICHI'S NO FUN ANYMORE. NOW THAT WE'RE LIVING TOGETHER, HE TAKES ME FOR GRANTED. HE SAYS HE'S BUSY WITH WORK AND REHEARSALS AND WHATEVER, BUT THE TRUTH IS, HE'S JUST AFRAID OF INTIMACY. BUT HOW DO I BAIT A FISH AFTER I'VE ALREADY REELED HIM IN?

.....
.....

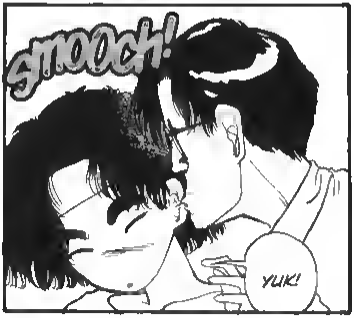

AYA, I...
PAWS OFF!

DON'T BE LIKE THAT...HEY, HOW 'BOUT I CLEAN YOUR EARS? I BROUGHT MY SWABS!
DON'T GET FRESH

Tap


JUST LIKE OLD TIMES, HUH?
HOLD STILL! WOULDN'T WANT TO PIERCE YOUR EARDRUM, WOULD WE ?

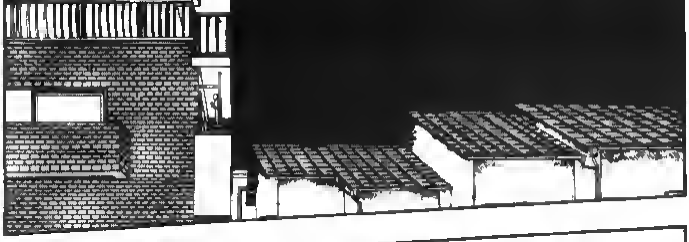
OWW OWW OWW! YOU BASTARD! YOU DID THAT ON PURPOSE!
I-I'M SORRY, MY HAND SLIPPED


smooch!
YUK!

I WARNED YOU!
SLAPP!
AH!
ANOTHER OF YOUR SWEET SPOTS...
I'M HOME.
I REMEMBER THEM ALL LIKE THE BACK OF MY HAND...
H-HOW DARE YOU LOOK AT ME WITH SUCH ACCUSATION IN YOUR EYES! I'M STILL AYA'S HUSBAND! I'M ENTITLED TO DO AS I PLEASE WITH HER!
ONE MORE WORD OUT OF YOU AND I'LL SMASH YOUR FACE IN
A MUNAKATA IN THE HAND IS BETTER THAN A SUEKICHI IN THE BUSH!
FINALLY... FINALLY YOU SEE THE LIGHT!

DIP DIP DIP
WAIT!
HOW I'VE LIVED FOR THIS MOMENT..
DON'T TOUCH ME!!
AT LAST WE ARE ALONE...
YOU'LL NEVER SLIP FROM MY GRASP AGAIN!
YOU'LL NEVER SLIP FROM MY GRASP AGAIN, MR MUNAKATA
HUHP

TIME TO GO BACK TO WORKIE-WORK. MUSN'T KEEP OUR READERS WAITING
H-HOW DID YOU TRACK ME HERE!?
NO ONE ESCAPES AN EDITOR.
KA-CHUNK
NO, NO! I WANT TO BE A NORMAL MIDDLE-AGED SALARYMAN AGAIN!
I THOUGHT I'D FIND YOU HERE
PUSSY!
SUEKICHI VERY MUCH STRESS.
HE BROUGHT IT ON HIMSELF.
COME ON, WE'RE GOING HOME
abidas
THANKS...
NO PROB'

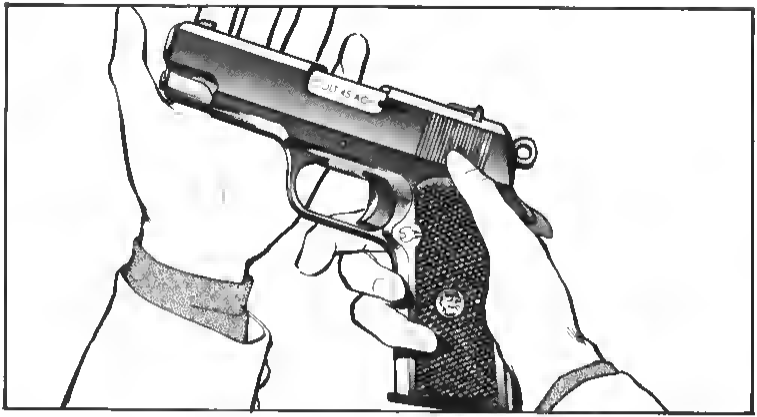


AWAKE?
UH-HUH.
TIRED?
NOT ANY-MORE.
LOVE LESSON #1: THE BEST MEDICINE FOR A FIGHT = SEX.

MORNING ALREADY...
NO CLASSES TILL THIS AFTERNOON, RIGHT?
GIGGL
HM?
I BEEN LOOKING FER YOUSE!!

100%
ILLEGAL
MANGA
DANCE
TILL
TOMORROW
#MANGA-SKETCHBOOK@IRCHIGHWAY
HTTP://WWW.MANGA-SKETCHBOOK.ORG

ACT EIGHT
EVERYDAY LIFE (PLUS YAKUZA)


.357 SIG

N-N-NOT THAT I WAS TRYING TO AVOID YOU OR ANYTHING...
B-BUT HOW DID YOU FIND ME HERE?
THE YAKUZA HAVE EYES AND EARS.

...ONE BULLET'S MISSING...
I-I HAD A LITTLE ACCIDENT. .

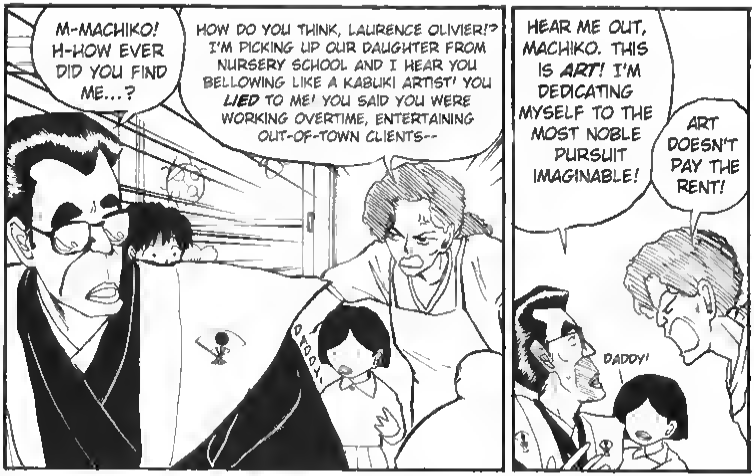
WHERE'S YOUR OTHER PIECE OF ASS? SHE GET TO BE A LIABILITY?
W-WELL, ACTU-ALLY...
I HEAR YOU. LISTEN...

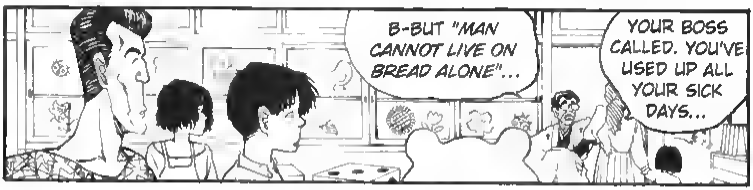
SOMEONE'S LOOKING FOR ME. MIND IF I CRASH HERE FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS?
THAT'S NOT A PROBLEM FOR YOU, IS IT?
N-NO, OF COURSE NOT

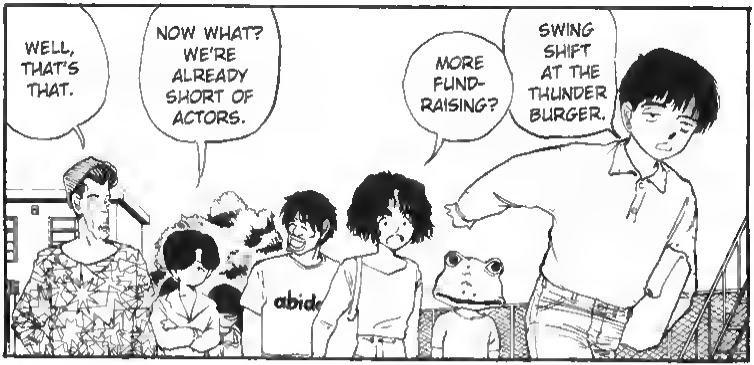
WE DON'T KNOW IF IT'S THE MOB OR THE COPS, BUT EITHER WAY, I BET THEY'RE AFTER THAT PIECE!
SUEKICHI'S A REGULAR WEIRDO MAGNET. MUST BE GENETIC.
MORE STRESS, HUH?
SO WHAT DOES THAT SAY ABOUT YOU?

I HEAR THERE'S NO LIFE LEFT IN THE LIZARD.
I-I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT...

DO I LOOK THE PART OR WHAT!?
SOB! IT BRINGS TEARS TO MY EYES! AT LONG LAST, TO BE BLESSED WITH THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REGAIN MY LOST YOUTH BY ATTAINING...
...MY LIFELONG DREAM OF A LIFE IN THE THEE-YA-TER!
SORRY TO INTERRUPT.
AS YOU WERE. NICE JOB ON THE PROPS.
HE BETTER START CUTTING BACK ON THE TEA
HE'S GOT A DAY JOB!?
IT'S ME, DON'T YOU THINK?
THERE YOU ARE!


M-MACHIKO! H-HOW EVER DID YOU FIND ME...?
HOW DO YOU THINK, LAURENCE OLIVIER!? I'M PICKING UP OUR DAUGHTER FROM NURSERY SCHOOL AND I HEAR YOU BELLOWING LIKE A KABUKI ARTIST! YOU LIED TO ME! YOU SAID YOU WERE WORKING OVERTIME, ENTERTAINING OUT-OF-TOWN CLIENTS--
D-DADDY!
HEAR ME OUT, MACHIKO. THIS IS ART! I'M DEDICATING MYSELF TO THE MOST NOBLE PURSUIT IMAGINABLE!
ART DOESN'T PAY THE RENT!
DADDY!


B-BUT "MAN CANNOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE"...
YOUR BOSS CALLED. YOU'VE USED UP ALL YOUR SICK DAYS...

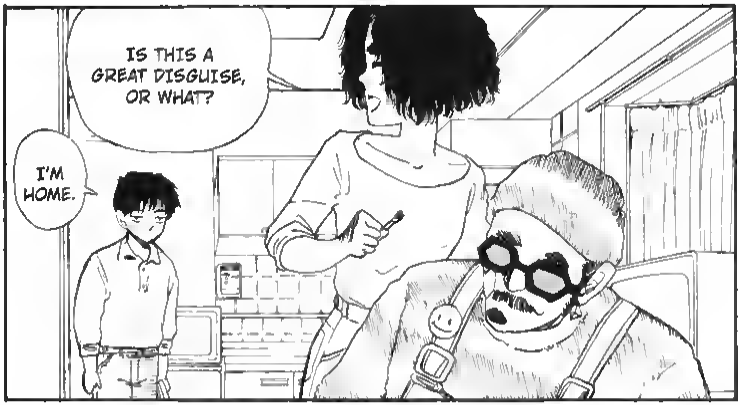

WELL, THAT'S THAT.
NOW WHAT? WE'RE ALREADY SHORT OF ACTORS.
MORE FUND-RAISING?
SWING SHIFT AT THE THUNDER BURGER.

I'M HOME...
ANOTHER PUZZLE!?
SEVEN IN FIVE DAYS...
MUST BE BORING BEING COOPED UP ALL THE TIME... WANT ME TO PICK UP THAT 5,000-PIECE ONE, "BLUE SKY"?
I'VE HAD ENOUGH.. OF JIGSAW PUZZLES...
WANNA GO OUT FOR A DRINK?
..

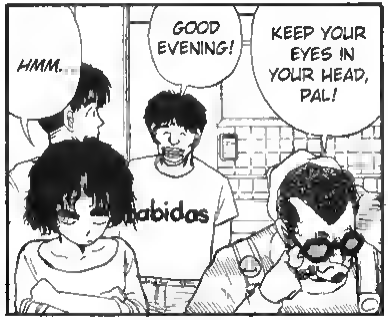
OH, YEAH, BABY!
AHH..! B-BUT... WHAT'LL I TELL SUEKICHI!?
HEH, HEH... THE BODY NEVER LIES!
I'VE GOT 30 PEARL IMPLANTS. ONCE YOU'VE HAD THAT, YOU'LL NEVER GO BACK.
DON'T... STOP...
I'LL MAKE YOU AN OFFER YOU CAN'T REFUSE

BOUND TO HAPPEN.
GIVE IT A REST

SUEKICHI.

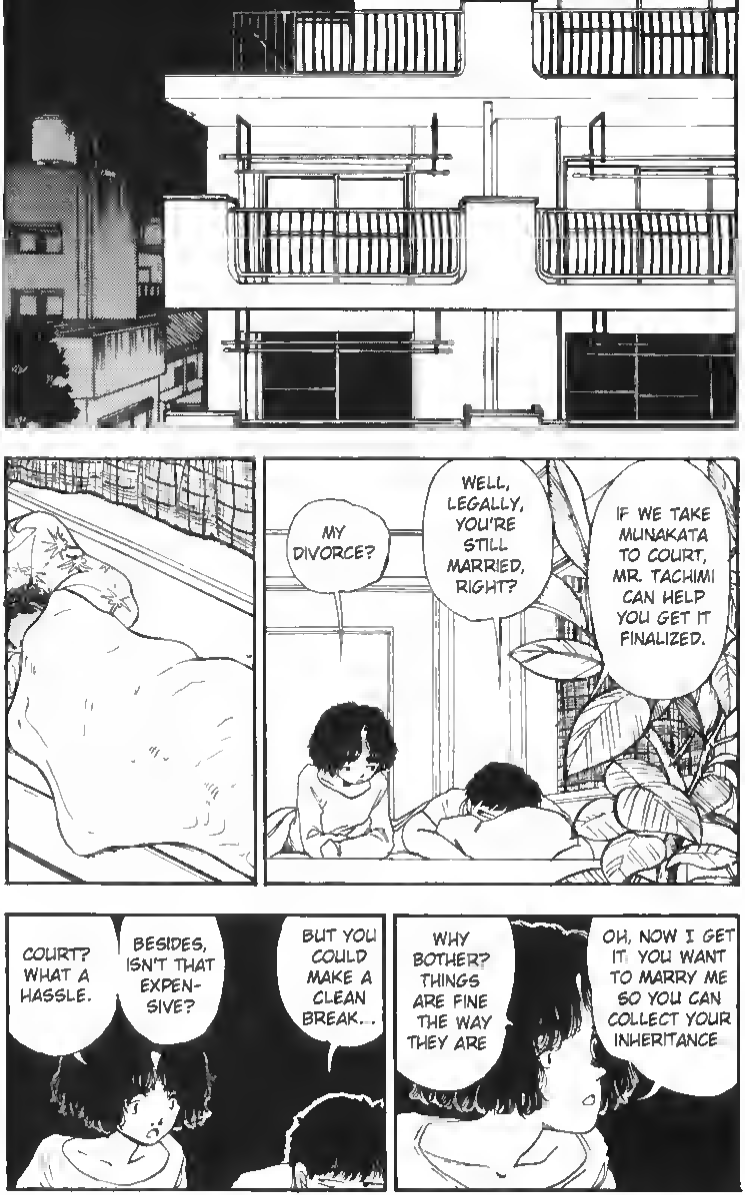

IS THIS A GREAT DISGUISE, OR WHAT?
I'M HOME.

WELL, HE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A YAKUZA ANYMORE... BUT HE STILL KIND OF STANDS OUT.
YOU THINK...?

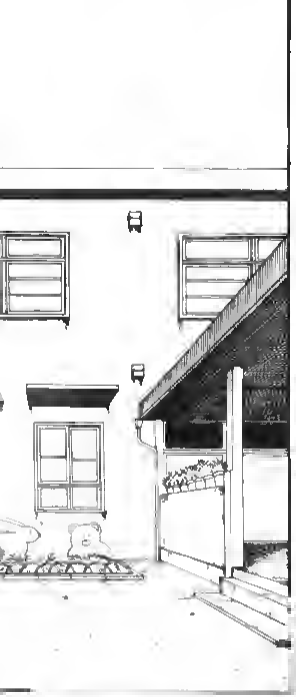

HMM...
GOOD EVENING!
KEEP YOUR EYES IN YOUR HEAD, PAL!

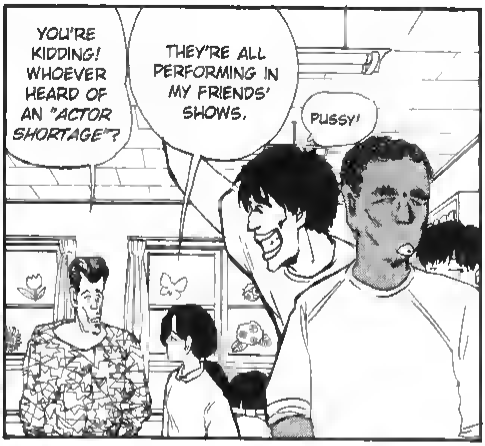
I BRING WHIS-KEY.

I'VE GOT AN IDEA!!
HUH?
BUT I'M GOING TO HAVE TO GIVE YOU A LITTLE TRIM FIRST...
AND A SHAVE
SINCE WHEN ARE WE A "HOW-TO" MANGA?
B-BACK OFF...
UM... MAYBE YOU BET-TER..
EVERYTHING'S UNDER CONTROL JUST BRING ME SOME GREASE PAINT
I BET YOU CAN'T WAIT TO CHECK UP ON YOUR HOME OFFICE, HUH, MR. YAKUZA?
SNIP
SNIP
...
NOW, STICK CLOSE TO FREDDY, AND NO ONE WILL GIVE YOU A SECOND LOOK IN KABUKI-CHO
HI, BROTHER!
I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS.
YOU CAN'T EVEN SEE YOUR SCAR, PRACTIC-ALLY!


IF WE TAKE MUNAKATA TO COURT, MR. TACHIMI CAN HELP YOU GET IT FINALIZED.
WELL, LEGALLY, YOU'RE STILL MARRIED, RIGHT?
MY DIVORCE?
BUT YOU COULD MAKE A CLEAN BREAK...
BESIDES, ISN'T THAT EXPEN-SIVE?
COURT? WHAT A HASSLE.
OH, NOW I GET IT. YOU WANT TO MARRY ME SO YOU CAN COLLECT YOUR INHERITANCE.
WHY BOTHER? THINGS ARE FINE THE WAY THEY ARE

THAT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!
LET'S HAVE A FIGHT!
BE SERI-OUS
BAM
WHAT WAS THAT!?
HE'S PROB-ABLY TAKING A WHIZ.
SO...HOW ABOUT IT?
WELL, I'M HARD...
SHH!
MMM...
AHH..




YOU'RE KIDDING! WHOEVER HEARD OF AN "ACTOR SHORTAGE"?
THEY'RE ALL PERFORMING IN MY FRIENDS' SHOWS.
PUSSY!

...

HEY! EVER BEEN ON STAGE? IN GRAMMAR SCHOOL, MAYBE?
IT'S EASY. HARDLY ANY LINES, AND YOU'LL GET TO PRACTICE YOUR JAPANESE.
...
IKEZU...

EH?

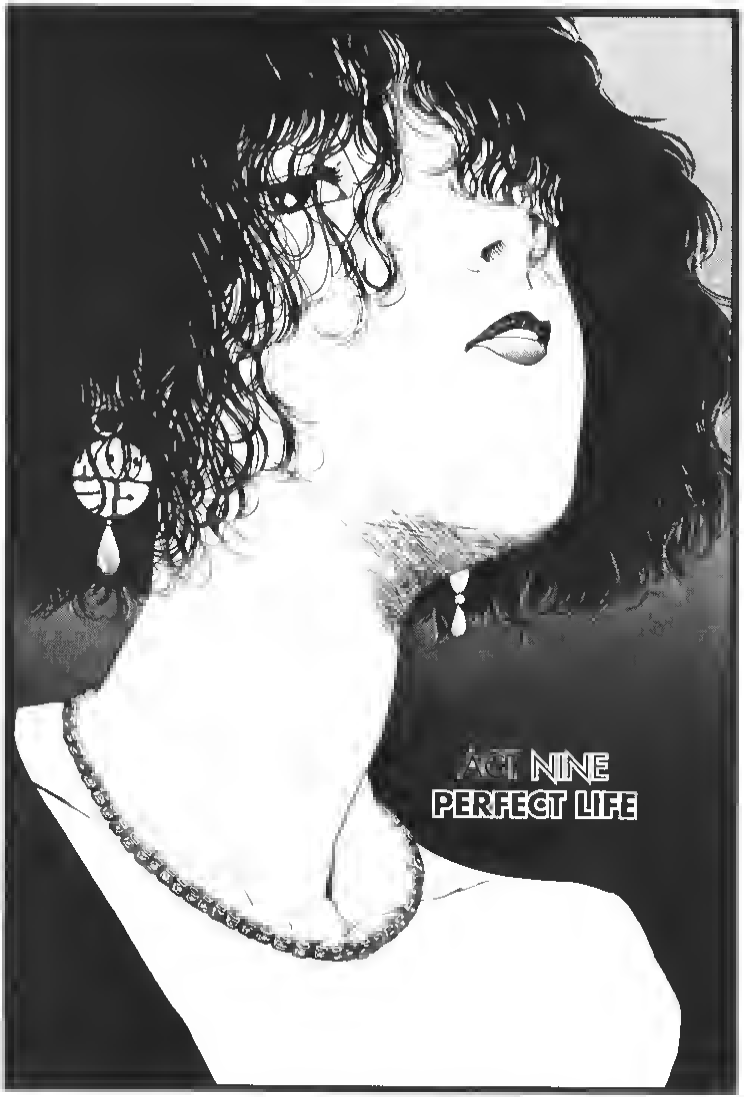
OH W-WOW. Y-YOU SURE HAD ME FOOLED!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE
I HAD NO IDEA!
IKEZU'S A REAL J-JOKER..
HELL, I'LL GIVE IT A SHOT...
HUH?
GOT PLENTY OF TIME ON MY HANDS...
...AND THE THEATER'S RIGHT BELOW MY OFFICE, RIGHT?
UH.. CAN OF COFFEE, SIR?
THANKS.
THIS CAN'T BE HAPPEN-ING!
A G-GUY LIVES WITH A 300 POUND GORILLA. WHERE DOES THE G-GORILLA SLEEP?
DON'T BE SO INTIM-TIM-TIMIDATED.
LOOK WHO'S TALK-ING!
SUE-KICHI!
WE HAVEN'T EVEN SOLD 200 TICKETS YET! HOW'RE WE GOING TO RECOUP OUR COSTS?
I-I'M WORKING ON IT. I'LL ASK ALL MY FRIENDS

SO ACTORS GOT TO SELL TICKETS?
O-OH, WELL, YOU DON'T HAVE TO IF YOU DON'T WANT--
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE IN THE SAME BIZ.
LEAVE IT TO ME.
Y-YES, SIR
COME ON.
WHERE ..?
...

HERE'S YOUR DOUGH.
B-BUT...
I'LL UNLOAD THESE, TOO.
LATER!
LOOK ME IN THE EYE. WOULD I LIE TO YOU? I'M TELLING YOU, IT'S THE GREATEST SHOW IN JAPAN. SATISFACTION GUARANTEED. JUST ONE? DON'T YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND?
JUST AS I SUSPECTED!
O-OF COURSE, I'LL TAKE TWO...

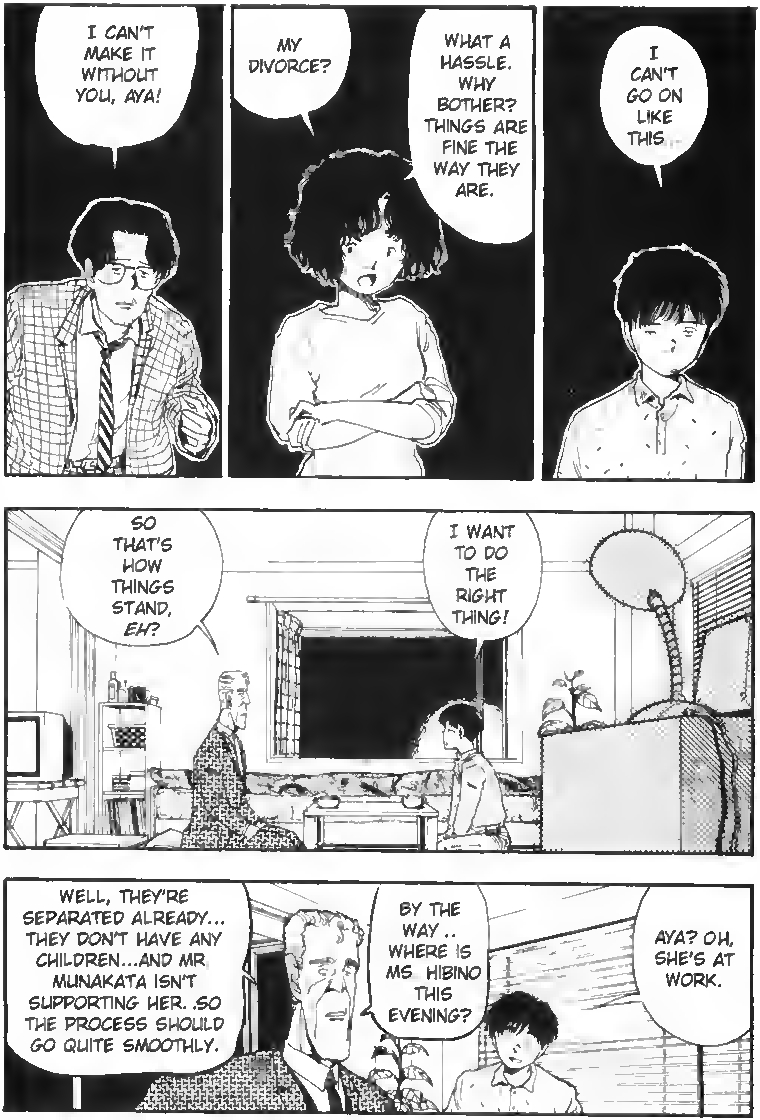
I'M GLAD HE MOVED TO FREDDY'S. NOW WE CAN DO IT AS LOUD AS WE WANT!
I WONDER WHAT HE'S UP TO...
WHO CARES? HE'S NOT OUR PROBLEM ANYMORE!
...

100%
ILLEGAL
MANGA
DANCE
TILL
TOMORROW
#MANGA-SKETCHBOOK@IRCHIGHWAY
HTTP://WWW.MANGA-SKETCHBOOK.ORG


ACT NINE
PERFECT LIFE

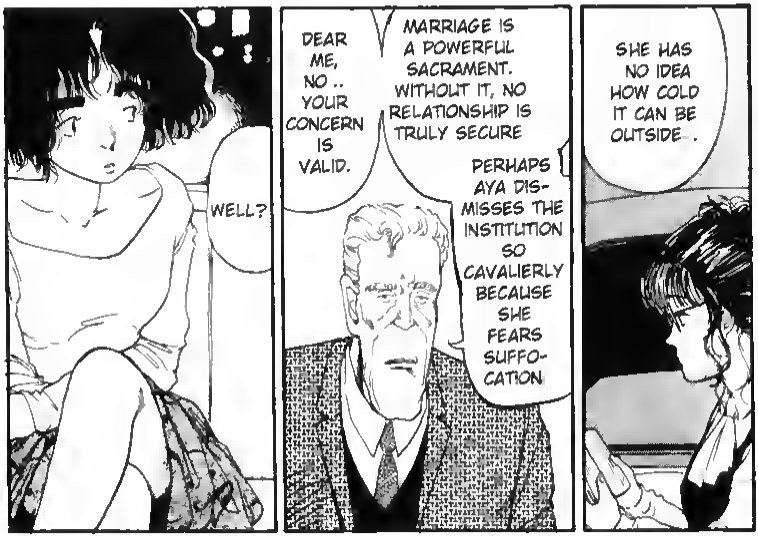
WHERE'S YOUR BETTER HALF?
ON THE LATE SHIFT SHE'LL BE HOME SOON
THE LATE SHIFT? AT THAT CLUB?
IT'S A RESPECTABLE PLACE
THAT DOESN'T MEAN THE CLIENTS ARE
WELCOME!

A HOSTESS THINKS SHE'S HIP SOME DUDE TELLS HER HE'S C E O OF A MAJOR CORPORATION TURNS OUT HE'S A YAKUZA BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, SHE'S TURNING TRICKS FOR HIM, AND IT'S ALL OVER NOW THERE'S A STORY I'VE HEARD MORE TIMES THAN I CAN COUNT
LOTTA BIG BAD WOLVES OUT THERE.. INCLUDING ME, I GUESS...
BING BONG
GOOD EVENING.
I WAS IN THE AREA, SO..
I SEE
EXCUSE ME YOU HAVE COMPANY..
SEE YOU CATCH ME AT FREDDY'S.
S-SORT OF..
KEEP MY PIECE SAFE AND WARM.
A FRIEND OF FREDDY'S?
S-SORT OF...

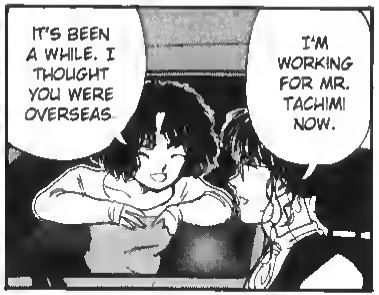

I CAN'T MAKE IT WITHOUT YOU, AYA!
MY DIVORCE?
WHAT A HASSLE. WHY BOTHER? THINGS ARE FINE THE WAY THEY ARE.
I CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS...
SO THAT'S HOW THINGS STAND, EH?
I WANT TO DO THE RIGHT THING!
WELL, THEY'RE SEPARATED ALREADY... THEY DON'T HAVE ANY CHILDREN...AND MR. MUNAKATA ISN'T SUPPORTING HER. SO THE PROCESS SHOULD GO QUITE SMOOTHLY.
BY THE WAY.. WHERE IS MS. HIBINO THIS EVENING?
AYA? OH, SHE'S AT WORK.

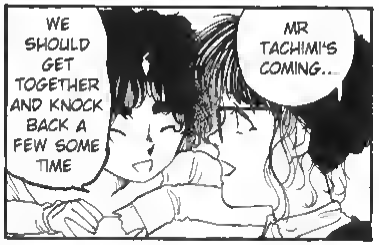
EH!?

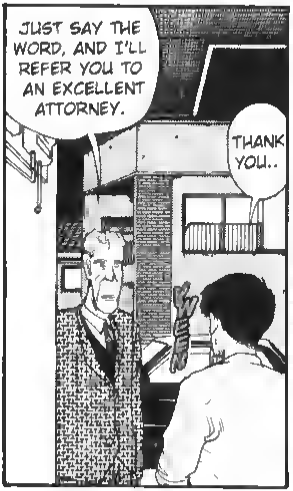
...AT A NIGHTCLUB? I CAN'T SAY I'M PLEASED TO HEAR THAT.
M-MAYBE I'M TOO HUNG UP ON THIS MARRIAGE THING...


WELL?
DEAR ME, NO.. YOUR CONCERN IS VALID.
MARRIAGE IS A POWERFUL SACRAMENT. WITHOUT IT, NO RELATIONSHIP IS TRULY SECURE
PERHAPS AYA DISMISSES THE INSTITUTION SO CAVALIERLY BECAUSE SHE FEARS SUFFOCATION
SHE HAS NO IDEA HOW COLD IT CAN BE OUTSIDE.

HEY, MIYUKI!


IT'S BEEN A WHILE. I THOUGHT YOU WERE OVERSEAS.
I'M WORKING FOR MR. TACHIMI NOW.


WE SHOULD GET TOGETHER AND KNOCK BACK A FEW SOME TIME
MR TACHIMI'S COMING..

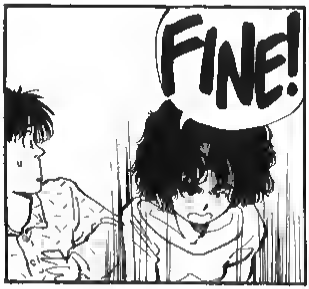

JUST SAY THE WORD, AND I'LL REFER YOU TO AN EXCELLENT ATTORNEY.
THANK YOU..

HONEY, I'M HOME!

YOU'VE BEEN WORKING A LOT LATELY... SAVING UP FOR SOMETHING?
I HAVE TO. THEY'RE SHORT-STAFFED.

MR. TACHIMI DROPPED BY. WE TALKED ABOUT LEGAL STUFF. HE SAID HE'LL BE HAPPY TO HELP US OUT ANY TIME.

ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?


FINE!

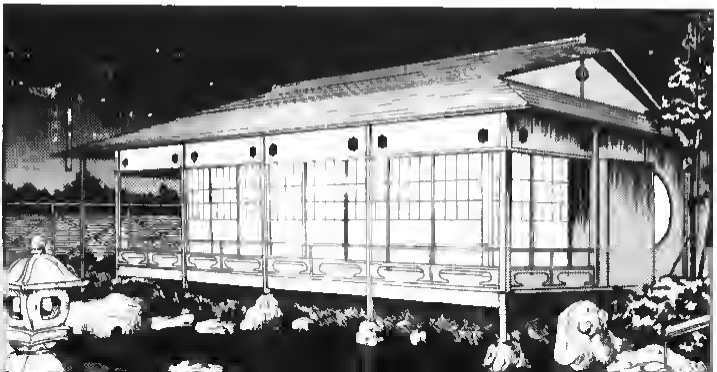
YOU KNOW WHAT?
I'M READY TO GET MARRIED AGAIN!

SO LET'S GET THIS DIVORCE OUT OF THE WAY A S.A.P TACHIMI WILL TAKE CARE OF ALL THE DETAILS?
THAT'S WHAT I SAID.
I'M GLAD YOU'RE FINALLY TAKING THIS STEP.
THE INSTITUTION OF MARRIAGE IS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR SOCIETY... UNFORTUNATELY, SINCE I'M STILL A STUDENT, WE CAN'T GET MARRIED RIGHT AWAY...
AREN'T YOU BEING A LITTLE PRESUMP-TUOUS?
HUH. .?
WHO SAID I'M PLANNING TO MARRY YOU?

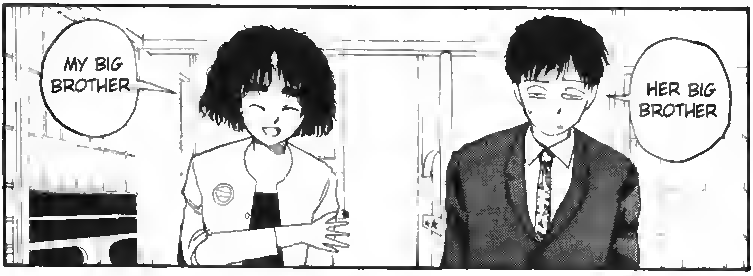
WH-WH-
WH-WH-
WH-WH-
WH-WH-
WILL YOU MARRY ME?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!?
YOU'RE GOING TO MARRY THAT GUY WHO SHARES RIDES HOME WITH YOU!?
WILL YOU SHUT UP AND LISTEN FOR A SEC!?
SO YOU'VE HAD YOUR WAY WITH ME AND NOW YOU'RE HOPPING ONTO THE NEXT HORSE!?
HE'S A RICH OLD FART HE'S GONNA DIE ANY DAY NOW FROM DIABETES OR HEART FAILURE HE PROMISED ME IF I STICK WITH HIM TILL THE END HE'LL LEAVE ME AN INHERITANCE HE CAN'T EVEN GET IT UP, FOR GOD'S SAKE!
WHY SHOULDN'T I HAVE MY OWN INHERITANCE?

YOUR INHERITANCE ISN'T REPORTED, SO WE'VE GOT TO SPEND IT SLOWLY. OTHERWISE, THE TAX DEPARTMENT WILL BE ON US LIKE STINK ON A MONKEY.
SO WE'LL USE YOURS FOR LIVING EXPENSES, AND MINE TO BUILD A MANSION! WE WON'T HAVE TO WORK ANOTHER DAY! AND WE'LL LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER!
B-BUT WHAT ABOUT... US?
HE'S GOT ONE FOOT IN THE GRAVE. THE OLD GEEZER WON'T HAVE A CLUE.
WE'VE GOT A DINNER DATE TOMORROW COME WITH ME?

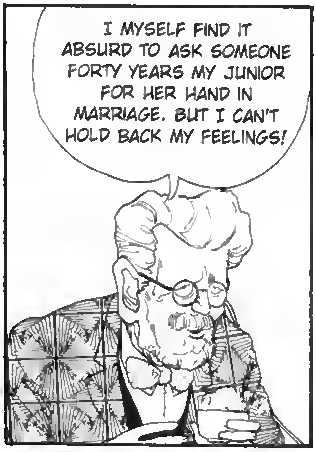
WITH YOU!?



GENICHIRO ITOI.


MY BIG BROTHER
HER BIG BROTHER

YOU MUST THINK IT STRANGE... AN OLD MAN LIKE ME MAKING SUCH A REQUEST.
N-NO, NOT AT ALL.


I MYSELF FIND IT ABSURD TO ASK SOMEONE FORTY YEARS MY JUNIOR FOR HER HAND IN MARRIAGE. BUT I CAN'T HOLD BACK MY FEELINGS!

I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO APPROVE. I'M NOT SURPRISED YOUR PARENTS REFUSE TO MEET WITH ME.
O-OH. WELL...
I'VE AMASSED A FORTUNE IN BUSINESS, BUT--PERHAPS AS A CONSEQUENCE FOR WORKING SO HARD ALL MY LIFE--I NOW HAVE LESS THAN THREE YEARS TO LIVE
I WOULD BE HONORED TO HAVE AYA BY MY SIDE DURING THE PRECIOUS REMAINING TIME ALLOTTED TO ME
THAT'S HOW MUCH SHE MEANS TO ME.
AFTER I PASS ON, SHE WILL RECEIVE AN INHERITANCE, WHICH SHE IS FREE TO SPEND AS SHE PLEASES.
OF COURSE, OUR LIAISON WILL TARNISH HER FAMILY REGISTRY...
NO PROBLEM. I'VE ALREADY TARNISHED IT ONCE AND I WOULDN'T WANT TO BE WITH A GUY WHO'S UPTIGHT ABOUT PETTY STUFF LIKE THAT, ANYWAY RIGHT, BIG BRO!?
UH... RIGHT.

TH-THEN YOU ACCEPT?
W-WELL, ONE MUSTN'T ACT TOO HASTILY IN SUCH MATTERS...
HE MEANS, WE'LL THINK IT OVER.

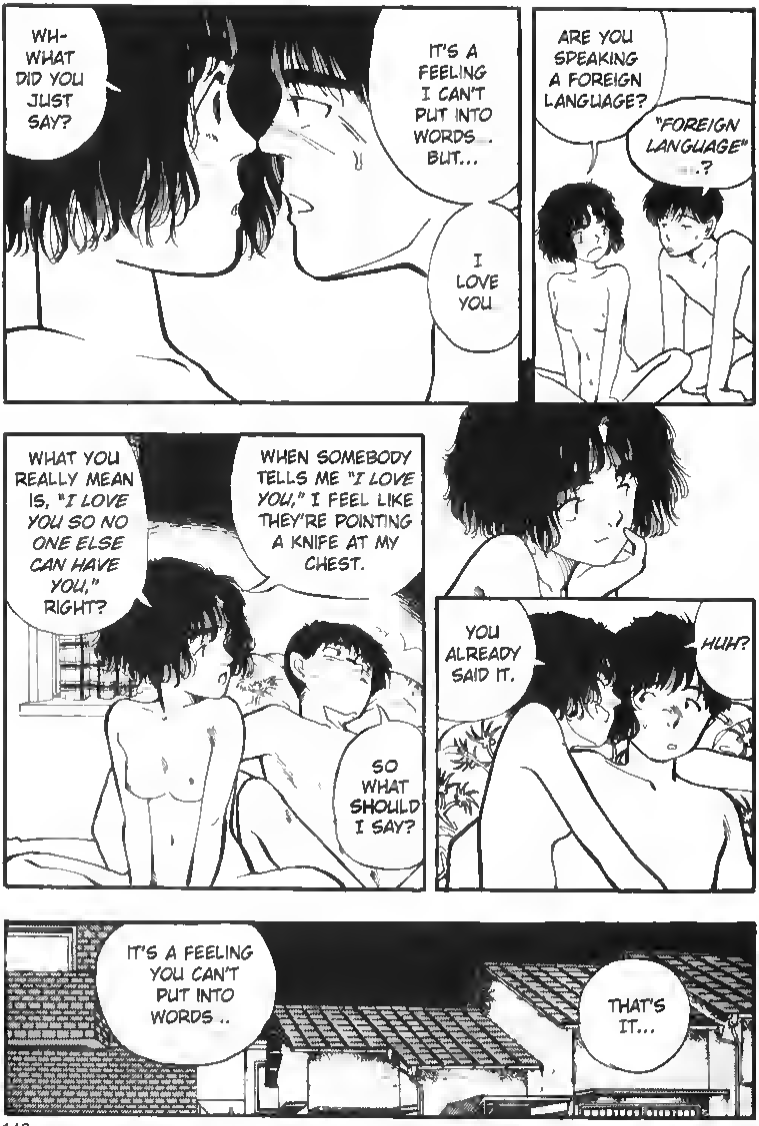
KOFF KOFF KOFF KOFF

TH-TH-THANK YOU.
KOFF KOFF! KOFF KOFF
THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TONIGHT SIR.
NURSE?
BREEP!

吉山
NUMBER TWO?
SHE'S BEEN IN THE RESTROOM QUITE SOME TIME

WOULD YOU MIND TELLING ME...
WHAT IT IS ABOUT AYA.. THAT YOU VALUE SO MUCH?
YOU'RE HER BROTHER! DON'T YOU SEE IT?
SHE HAS EVERY-THING I DON'T HAVE!
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING. I OVERDID IT ALL AT DINNER. HAD TO PUKE IT BACK UP.
WHAT A DEAL, HUH!?

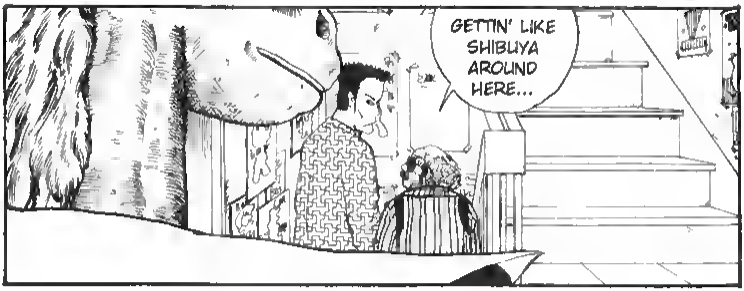
YOU'RE LOOKING SKEPTICAL AGAIN...
IT'S NOT LIKE THIS IS ILLEGAL OR ANYTHING. AND YOU'RE NOT READY TO GET MARRIED NOW ANYWAY, RIGHT?
IT'S THE PERFECT PLAN!
TOO PERFECT. THERE MUST BE A CATCH...
YOU WORRY TOO MUCH.
...
HUH?
WHATCHA THINKING?
THAT I LOVE YOU.

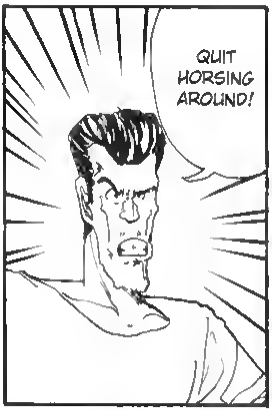

WH-WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?
IT'S A FEELING I CAN'T PUT INTO WORDS... BUT...
I LOVE YOU
ARE YOU SPEAKING A FOREIGN LANGUAGE?
"FOREIGN LANGUAGE"...?
WHAT YOU REALLY MEAN IS, "I LOVE YOU SO NO ONE ELSE CAN HAVE YOU," RIGHT?
WHEN SOMEBODY TELLS ME "I LOVE YOU," I FEEL LIKE THEY'RE POINTING A KNIFE AT MY CHEST.
SO WHAT SHOULD I SAY?
YOU ALREADY SAID IT.
HUH?
IT'S A FEELING YOU CAN'T PUT INTO WORDS..
THAT'S IT...

100%
ILLEGAL
MANGA
DANCE
TILL
TOMORROW
#MANGA-SKETCHBOOK@IRCHIGHWAY
HTTP://WWW.MANGA-SKETCHBOOK.ORG

ACT TEN
PIMPISH

MONROE THEATRE
JO
WHO NEEDS THE HASSLE?
SO I TOLD THAT CLOWN...
WHOA, NELLIE!


GETTIN' LIKE SHIBUYA AROUND HERE...


QUIT HORSING AROUND!

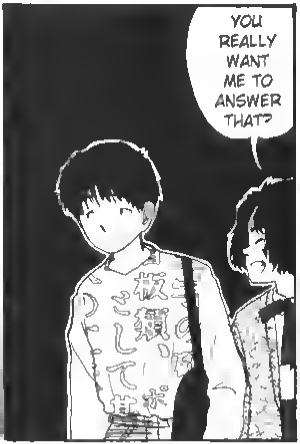
WE'VE ONLY GOT TWO DAYS TILL WE OPEN!
SO STOP WANDERING OFF.. ESPECIALLY IN COSTUME!

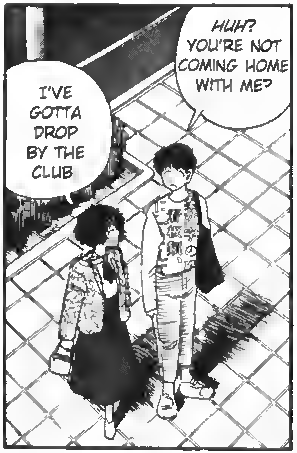
SORRY...
WHAT DO YOU NEED ME TO DO?

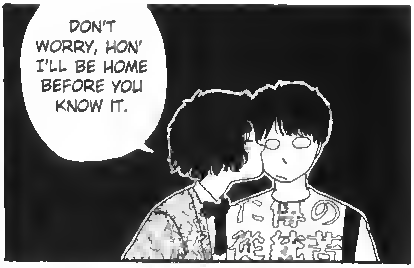
OH, N-NOTHING, SIR...
MIGHT AS WELL MAKE MYSELF USEFUL.
D-DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
I SAID, TELL ME WHAT TO DO!
OH, W-WELL THEN, SUEKICHI'S YOUR MAN.
D-DO YOU HAVE SOME WORK CLOTHES?
MY NERVES..
HI, EVERYONE! HOW'S IT HANGIN'?
AYA! YOU NO LOOK SAME!
<GIGGLE> WELL, I HAD TO DRESS UP FOR COURT.
HOW'D IT GO?
CHANGE. THERE'S TONS TO DO.
DID HE CONTEST IT?
ONLY HIS LAWYER SHOWED..

I'M CRASHING HERE FOR A FEW DAYS
AREN'T YOU COMING HOME WITH US?
WHAT TIME IS IT ANYWAY?
OKAY, PEOPLE! SET CHANGES AND DRESS REHEARSAL TOMORROW AT ONE!
I GO OUT SEE MY FRIENDS!
YAWN
I WANT SOME LINES!
abida's

I HEAR FREDDY'S GOT HIMSELF A SUGAR
FREDDY'S A STUD. PLUS, HE'S GOT A BIG DOG.
HOW WOULD YOU KNOW?

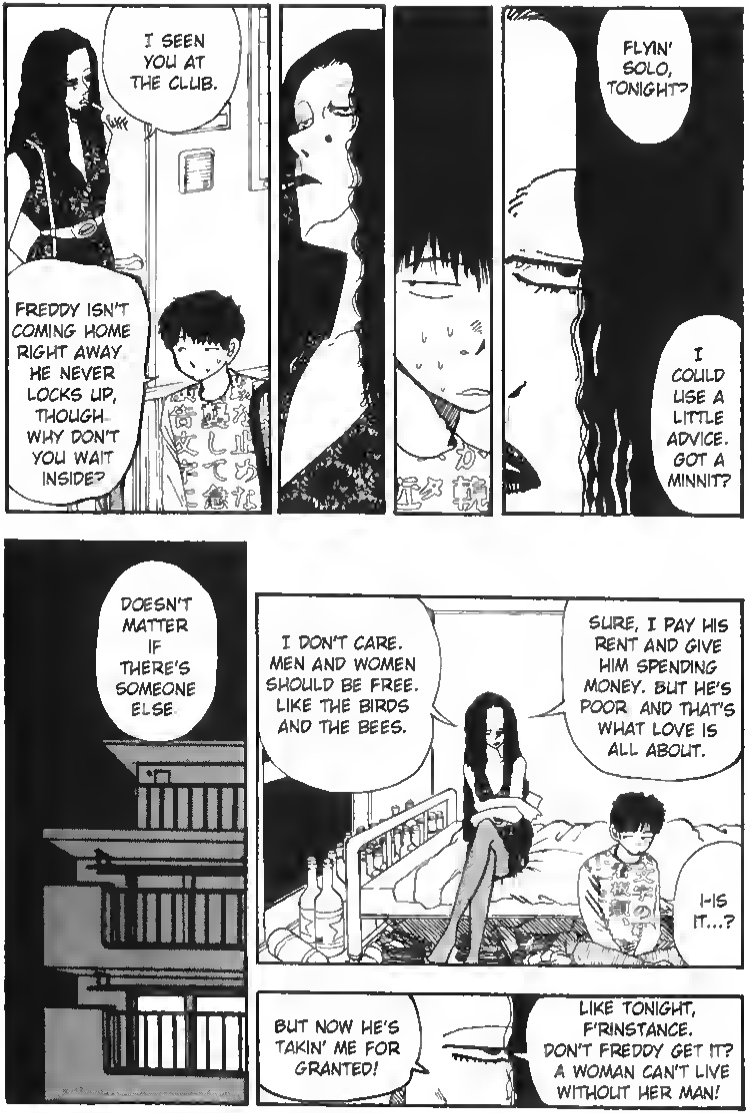

YOU REALLY WANT ME TO ANSWER THAT?


HUH? YOU'RE NOT COMING HOME WITH ME?
I'VE GOTTA DROP BY THE CLUB

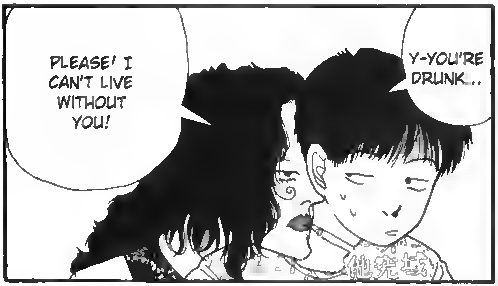

DON'T WORRY, HON' I'LL BE HOME BEFORE YOU KNOW IT.

SEE YA!

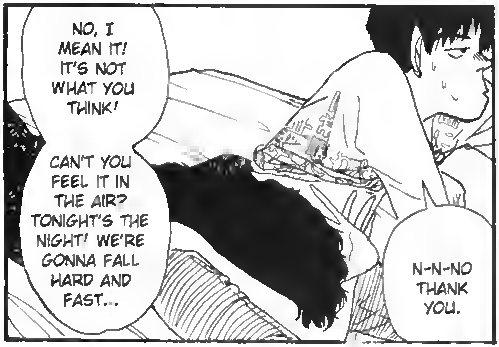
MUST BE WAITING FOR THE STUD..
HEY! YOU'RE A FRIEND OF FREDDY'S, AIN'TCHA?


I SEEN YOU AT THE CLUB.
FREDDY ISN'T COMING HOME RIGHT AWAY. HE NEVER LOCKS UP, THOUGH. WHY DON'T YOU WAIT INSIDE?
FLYIN' SOLO, TONIGHT?
I COULD USE A LITTLE ADVICE. GOT A MINNIT?
DOESN'T MATTER IF THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE.
I DON'T CARE. MEN AND WOMEN SHOULD BE FREE. LIKE THE BIRDS AND THE BEES.
SURE, I PAY HIS RENT AND GIVE HIM SPENDING MONEY. BUT HE'S POOR AND THAT'S WHAT LOVE IS ALL ABOUT.
I-IS IT...?
BUT NOW HE'S TAKIN' ME FOR GRANTED!
LIKE TONIGHT, F'RINSTANCE. DON'T FREDDY GET IT? A WOMAN CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT HER MAN!

WHEN D'YOU THINK HE'LL TAKE ME BACK TO THE STATES WITH HIM?
THE "STATES"?
YEAH. THE UNITED AMERICAN ONES. HAVEN'T HEARD OF 'EM, COLLEGE BOY?
UHH...
DON'T GET ME WRONG. I AIN'T WITH FREDDY JUST 'CAUSE HE'S BLACK.
SURE I GOT A THING FOR DARK DUDES...BUT IT'S MORE THAN THAT I DIG WHERE HE'S COMING FROM, Y'KNOW? OUR LOVE IS DEEPER THAN COLOR!
FOO
FREDDY'S DARK ALL RIGHT, BUT HE'S SOUTHEAST ASIAN...
TIRED...
GOTTA GO---
DON'T LEAVE ME!
...NOW.
DEAF NOW TOO?


PLEASE! I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT YOU!
Y-YOU'RE DRUNK...

SHE'S...
... GOOD ...
SHLRP SHLRP

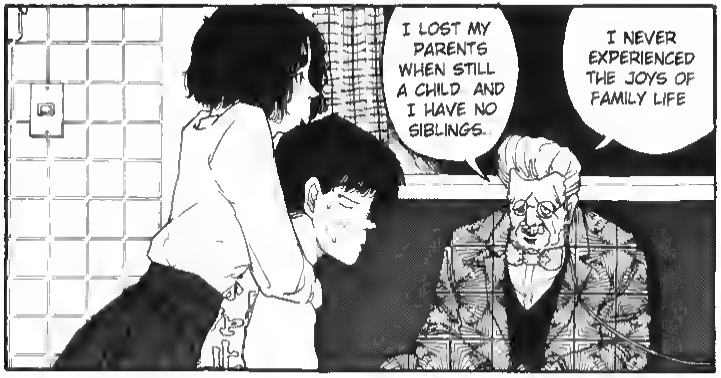

NO, I MEAN IT! IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK!
CAN'T YOU FEEL IT IN THE AIR? TONIGHT'S THE NIGHT! WE'RE GONNA FALL HARD AND FAST...
N-N-NO THANK YOU.

YOU CHEAT ON AYA!

SUEKICHI'S A CHEATER, SUEKICHI'S A CHEATER!
W-WHAT? NO! IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK!
SH-SHE JUST NEEDED TO TALK...
NO-BODY, BABY!
WHO WAS IT THIS TIME?
DON'T TRUST HER, FREDDY! SHE'S AN OPPOR-TUNIST!
HERE! YOU LIKE?
S-SO HARD!
W-WHAT ABOUT YOUR DREAM TO GO HOME A RICH MAN?
I LOVE YOU JUST, YUKO!
OH!
.....
FZIP FAPAP
AHHH!!
OH, FREDDY! YOU'RE THE BEST!
YOU LIKE? YOU LIKE?
TAKE ME BACK TO THE STATES WITH YOU, OKAY?
.....

CHUD!
I'M HO-OME!
I MISSED YOU LIKE CRAZY.
WHAT'S UP WITH YOU?
DOES THAT FEEL GOOD? HUH?
Y-YEAH, BUT...

...I BROUGHT COMPANY!
GOOD EVENING.
..AND MY BROTHER AND I ARE SO CLOSE, WE'RE ALWAYS HUGGING!
HOW SWEET.
OF COURSE. I UNDER-STAND.
PEOPLE MISTAKE US FOR LOVERS ALL THE TIME. RIGHT, SUEKICHI?
HUH? OH. YEAH.
SQUIRM SQUIRM
I'M ENVIOUS.


I LOST MY PARENTS WHEN STILL A CHILD AND I HAVE NO SIBLINGS.
I NEVER EXPERIENCED THE JOYS OF FAMILY LIFE

SO LET'S GET MARRIED! WE'LL ALL BE ONE BIG HAPPY FAMILY THEN!
STRNGL

I DON'T WANT YOU TO RUSH INTO ANYTHING. TAKE YOUR TIME...

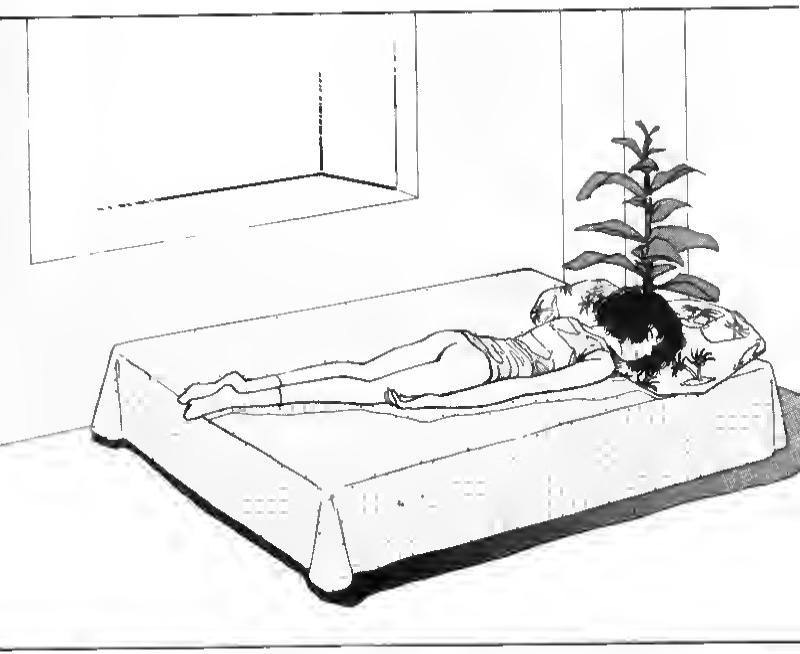
WHATSA MATTER?
TIRED .. BED ..

SCHNORR!
CHLID KLANKA KLANK!
JUST KICK THE BEER BOTTLES OUT OF THE WAY .. CAREFUL! DON'T DROP THE BOXES!
DAMN! WHAT'S ALL THE RUCKUS ABOUT!?
OVER THERE
FRAGILE

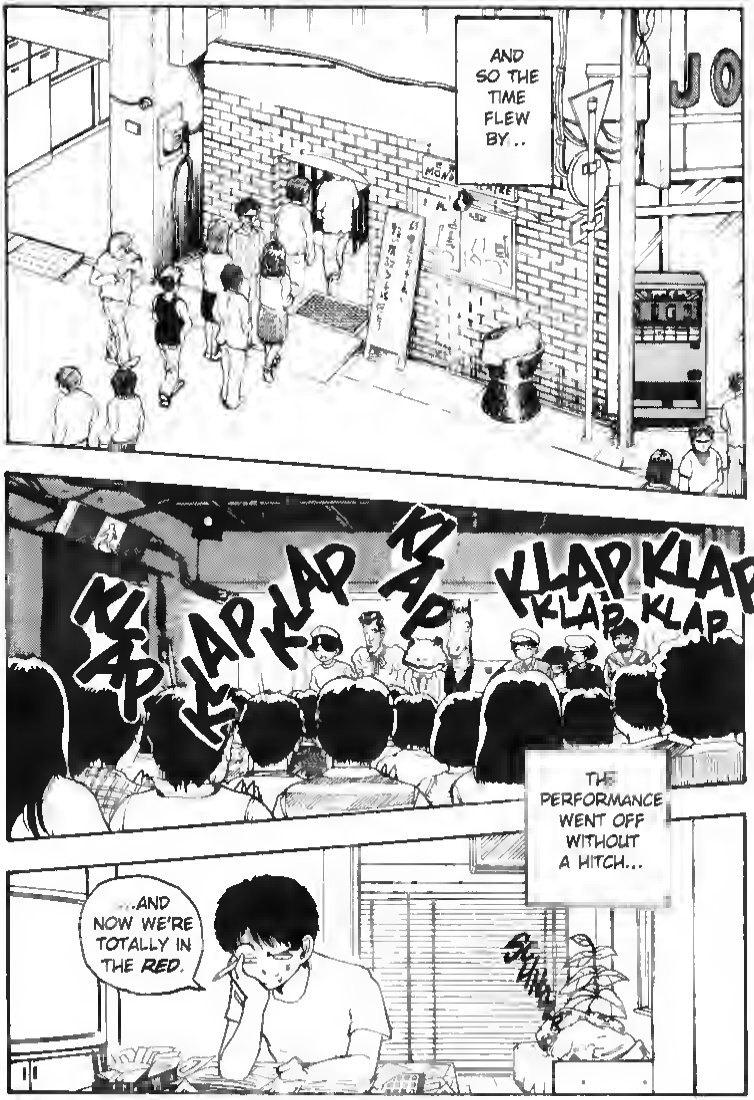
WHAT ARE YOU DOING AT THIS UNGODLY HOUR!?
WELL, LAST NIGHT WE GOT TO TALKING ABOUT HOW HOT IT'S BEEN...AND HE OFFERED TO BUY ME AN AIR CONDITIONER!
SO I ASKED HIM FOR A TV AND SOME FURNITURE, TOO.
AND I WAS DREAMING OF STARTING MY DAY WITH A NICE LONG—
SIGN HERE, MA'AM.
FWOOOOOOO
EAT. YOU GOTTA KEEP YOUR STRENGTH UP. YOU'RE REHEARSING ALL DAY, RIGHT?

SO, BASICALLY, I'M A PIMP NOW
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? GENICHIRO'S LOADED HE NEEDS A WOMAN TO SPEND IT ON
BUT YOU'RE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HIM! MAYBE HE ACTUALLY ENJOYS YOUR COMPANY...
BUT YOU'RE GONNA TRICK HIM INTO MARRYING YOU SO YOU CAN INHERIT HIS MONEY. YOU'RE COMMITTING M-MARRIAGE FRAUD!
SO WHAT? I'M GIVING A LONELY OLD MAN A FEW MOMENTS OF HAPPINESS IT'S A VICTIMLESS CRIME! AS LONG AS WE DON'T GET CAUGHT...
WHAT ABOUT ME!?
WHAT ABOUT YOU? THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS, MONEY MAKES THE WORLD GO ROUND. I SAY WE REAP OUR SHARE OF THE PROSPERITY OF THE ECONOMIC SUPER-POWER JAPAN.
"TOMORROW" IS IN OUR HANDS!!
WHERE'D YOU LEARN TO TALK LIKE THAT?

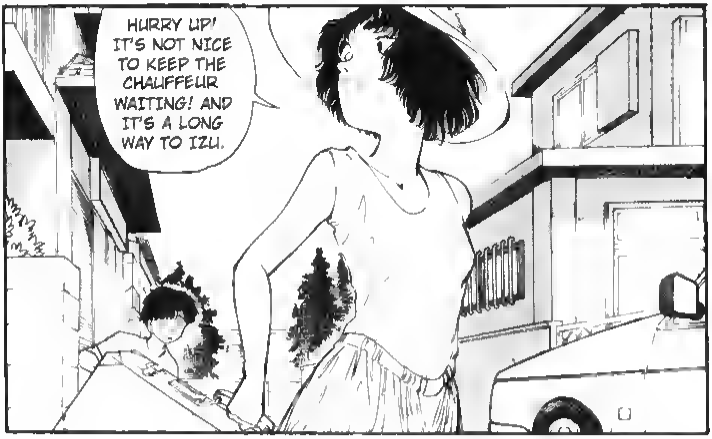
100%
ILLEGAL
MANGA
DANCE
TILL
TOMORROW
#MANGA-SKETCHBOOK@IRCHIGHWAY
HTTP://WWW.MANGA-SKETCHBOOK.ORG

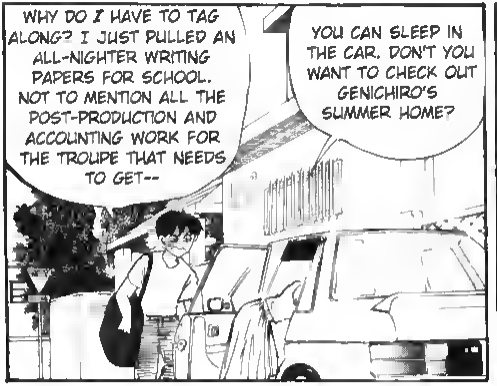


ACT ELEVEN
SECOND HOME

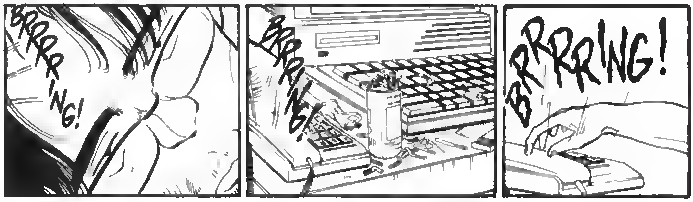

AND SO THE TIME FLEW BY..
KLAP KLAP KLAP KLAP KLAP KLAP KLAP
THE PERFORMANCE WENT OFF WITHOUT A HITCH...
...AND NOW WE'RE TOTALLY IN THE RED.

A
MONTH
OR SO
LATER...


HURRY UP! IT'S NOT NICE TO KEEP THE CHAUFFEUR WAITING! AND IT'S A LONG WAY TO IZU.

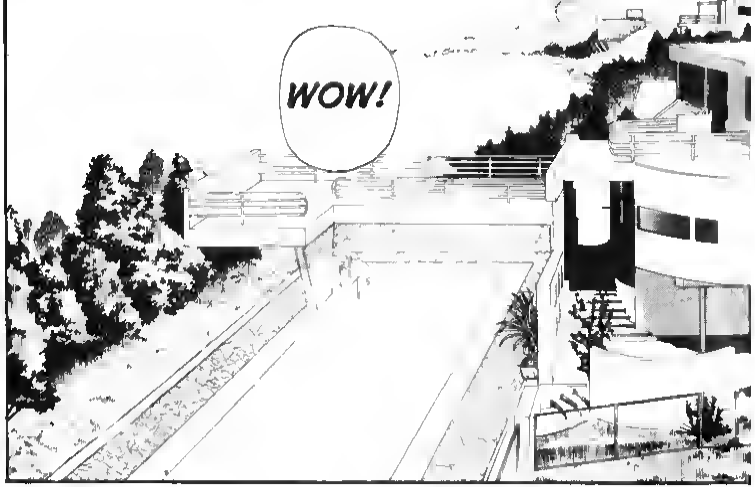

WHY DO I HAVE TO TAG ALONG? I JUST PULLED AN ALL-NIGHTER WRITING PAPERS FOR SCHOOL. NOT TO MENTION ALL THE POST-PRODUCTION AND ACCOUNTING WORK FOR THE TROUPE THAT NEEDS TO GET--
YOU CAN SLEEP IN THE CAR. DON'T YOU WANT TO CHECK OUT GENICHIRO'S SUMMER HOME?

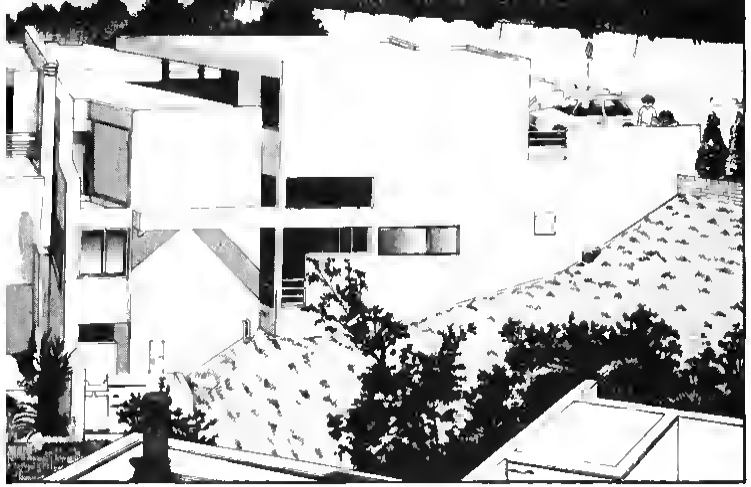
BRRR'NG!

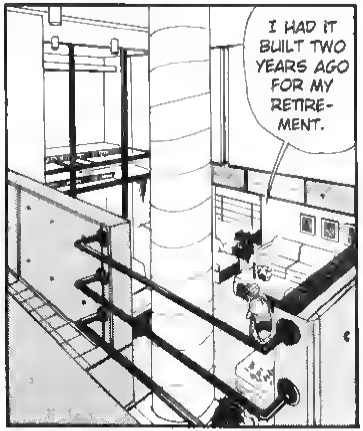

BRRR'NG!
BRRR'NG!
BRRRRING!

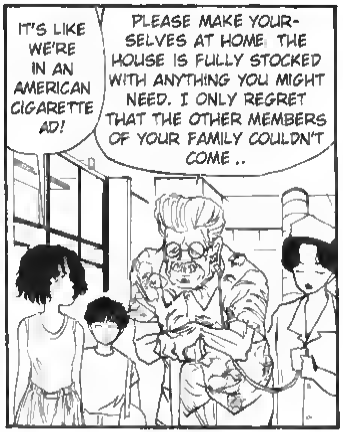
IT'S ME. SUE.

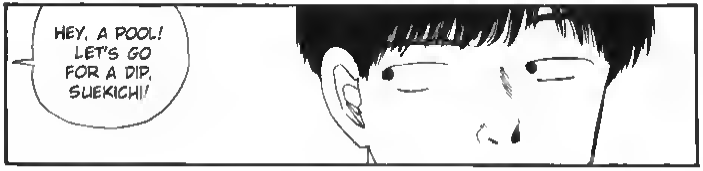
JUDGING FROM THE NOTE OF HYSTERIA IN YOUR VOICE, I'M BETTING YOU QUIT YOUR JOB, CHECKED INTO A HOTEL TO CONCENTRATE ON WRITING YOUR NEXT MASTERPIECE, BUT CAME DOWN WITH A MAJOR CASE OF WRITER'S BLOCK IN OTHER WORDS, YOU'RE A WRECK
NEVER MIND THAT. LISTEN...
AYA AND SUEKICHI? ON A TRIP? TOGETHER?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TOLD ME I COULD BE A FULLTIME WRITER AND LIVE OFF MY ROYALTIES! I WAS A FOOL TO BELIEVE YOU!
CORRECT AND THEY'LL BE RIGHT BY YOUR HOTEL...
SEEMS UNFAIR, DOESN'T IT? WHILE YOU'RE SLAVING AWAY TO MEET YOUR DEADLINE, THEY'RE LIVING THE LIFE OF LEISURE AT A LUXURIOUS SUMMER HOME RIGHT NEXT DOOR...
HERE'S YOUR COFFEE, WHICH CONTAINS CAFFEINE WHICH WILL STIMULATE YOUR CREATIVITY
WHO ARE YOU SPEAKING TO!? HOW DID THEY GET THIS NUMBER!?
JUST RELAX RELA-A-AX. LET THE PROSE FLOW THROUGH YOUR FINGERS
TOMORROW'S YOUR DEADLINE IT'S TIME YOU GOT STARTED YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO'S SUFFERING, YOU KNOW! I'VE LOST 5 POUNDS ALREADY FROM VICARIOUS STRESS!

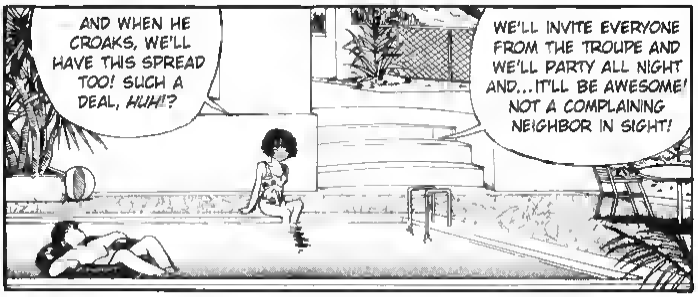

WOW!




I HAD IT BUILT TWO YEARS AGO FOR MY RETIRE-MENT.


IT'S LIKE WE'RE IN AN AMERICAN CIGARETTE AD!
PLEASE MAKE YOUR-SELVES AT HOME. THE HOUSE IS FULLY STOCKED WITH ANYTHING YOU MIGHT NEED. I ONLY REGRET THAT THE OTHER MEMBERS OF YOUR FAMILY COULDN'T COME ..


HEY, A POOL! LET'S GO FOR A DIP, SUEKICHI!


AND WHEN HE CROAKS, WE'LL HAVE THIS SPREAD TOO! SUCH A DEAL, HUH!?
WE'LL INVITE EVERYONE FROM THE TROUPE AND WE'LL PARTY ALL NIGHT AND...IT'LL BE AWESOME! NOT A COMPLAINING NEIGHBOR IN SIGHT!

WE CAN'T FOOL HIM FOREVER SOME DAY HE'LL FIGURE OUT I'M NOT YOUR BROTHER
WHAT IF MUNAKATA OR SUE SPILL THE BEANS?

WE CAN HANDLE THEM. THE OLD GEEZER WON'T LAST TOO MUCH LONGER, ANYWAY.

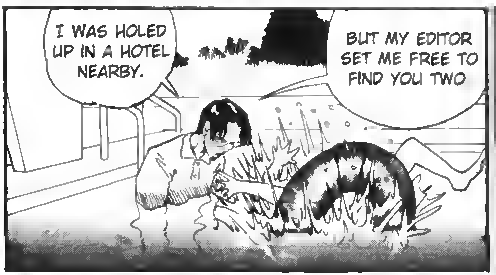
GENICHIRO WISHES TO SEE YOU.
IT WON'T BE EASY BUT YOU DON'T GET SOMETHING FOR NOTHING, SUEKICHI!

SO WHY...

...DO I FEEL LIKE...

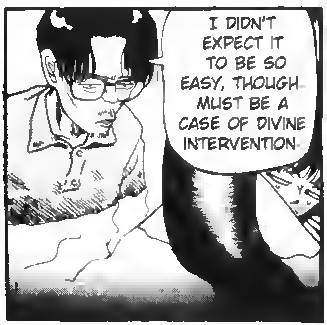
...WE'RE JUST PULLING A [illegible] HERE?

WHERE IS MY WIFE!?

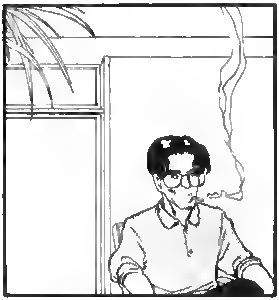

I WAS HOLED UP IN A HOTEL NEARBY.
BUT MY EDITOR SET ME FREE TO FIND YOU TWO

NOW LET ME SEE AYA. I KNOW SHE'S HERE
H-H-HOLD ON A SEC'!

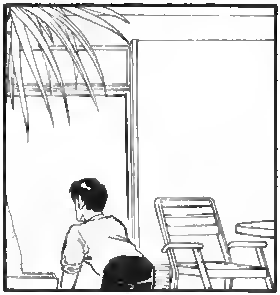
H--HOT...


I DIDN'T EXPECT IT TO BE SO EASY, THOUGH. MUST BE A CASE OF DIVINE INTERVENTION.

L--
LET'S SEE.
OFC!
NOW ALL I NEED IS A LITTLE ICE.
YO, SUEKICHI!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOU CAN'T JUST HELP YOURSELF TO HIS BOOZE!
LOOK! GENICHIRO GAVE ME HIS WIFE'S YUKATA.
A PERFECT FIT
LISTEN
URK!



HEL-LO-O-O-O!
I'LL BE YOUR HOSTESS TODAY!

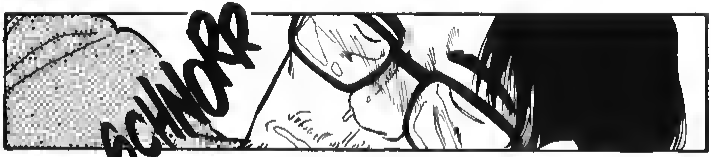


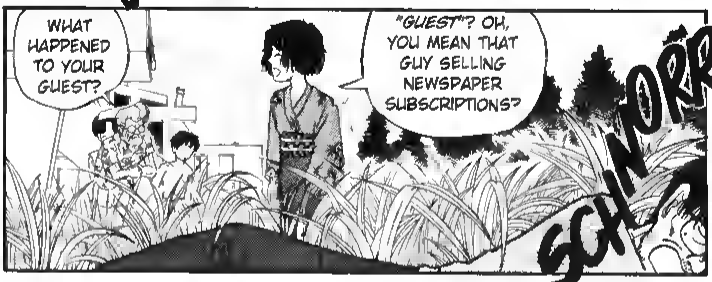
A-AYA! HOW ARE YOU!?
HOWS ABOUT A LI'L DRINKIE-POO?

WHAT'S GOING ON?
SH-SHE JUST WANTED TO DRINK ALONE ALL OF A SUDDEN

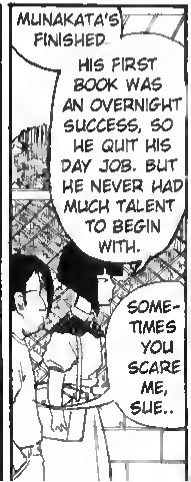
I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT YOU IN COURT, AYA! LET'S JUST STAY MARRIED!
DRINK UP!
GLUG! GLUG!

LOOKS LIKE SHE'S ENTERTAINING A GUEST OUT THERE...
I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU, SIR!!
YES? WHAT IS IT?
W-WELL ...
I JUST WANTED YOU TO KNOW THAT...
... YOU AND MY SISTER HAVE MY BLESS-ING!
THANK YOU. SO YOU'VE MADE UP YOUR MIND, AT LAST!
WELL, SHE'S STILL WAVER-ING...BUT AS HER BROTHER, I DON'T SEE ANY REASON WHY YOU TWO SHOULDN'T--
I'LL GO JOIN HER NOW.
B-BUT, SIR!

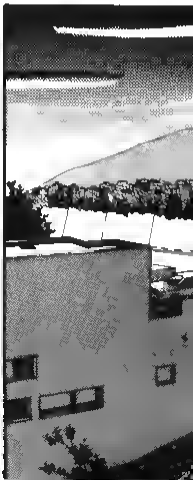

SCHNORR


WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR GUEST?
"GUEST"? OH, YOU MEAN THAT GUY SELLING NEWSPAPER SUBSCRIPTIONS?
SCHNORR

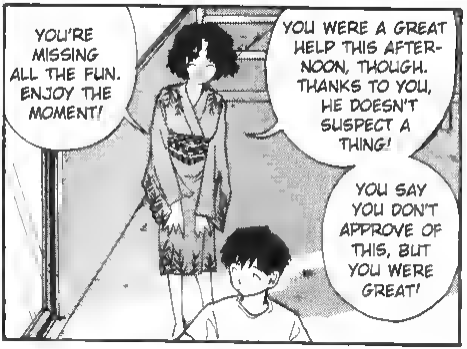
EXCUSE ME, IS AN EDITOR FROM "MONTHLY LITERATURE" STAYING AT YOUR HOTEL? YES...YES...


MUNAKATA'S FINISHED
HIS FIRST BOOK WAS AN OVERNIGHT SUCCESS, SO HE QUIT HIS DAY JOB. BUT HE NEVER HAD MUCH TALENT TO BEGIN WITH.
SOME-TIMES YOU SCARE ME, SUE..

MY APOLOGIES FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE
O-OH, NO PROBLEM, SIR.
MUNAKATA

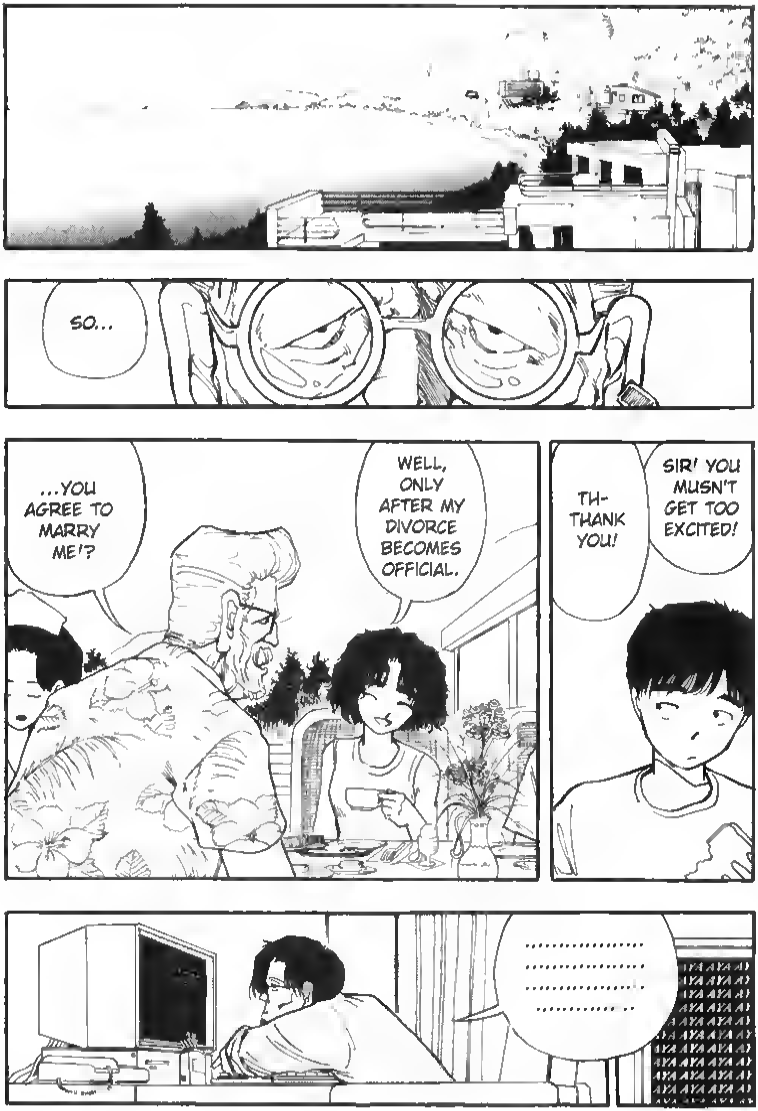


STILL BROODING?


YOU'RE MISSING ALL THE FUN. ENJOY THE MOMENT!
YOU WERE A GREAT HELP THIS AFTERNOON, THOUGH. THANKS TO YOU, HE DOESN'T SUSPECT A THING!
YOU SAY YOU DON'T APPROVE OF THIS, BUT YOU WERE GREAT!

I JUST DID WHAT HAD TO BE DONE
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'M CONDONING THIS. NO MATTER HOW SWEET THIS DEAL SOUNDS, IT STILL MEANS YOU'LL BELONG TO SOMEBODY ELSE FOR A FEW YEARS.

WOW! WHO KNEW YOU LOVED ME SO MUCH?
DON'T WORRY I'LL FIND TIME FOR YOU. EVEN IF I MARRY GENICHIRO, HE WON'T HAVE MY BODY.
SO OUR RELATIONSHIP IS JUST SEX TO YOU? AND AS LONG AS YOU DON'T HAVE SEX WITH HIM, YOU'RE FINE WITH THIS?
I TOLD YOU...YOU CAN'T GET SOMETHING FOR NOTHING!
BUT IS ALL THIS REALLY WORTH IT?
THERE YOU GO COMPLI-CATING THINGS.
MMM...
YOU'RE JUST TOO WOUND UP...
TH-THAT'S NOT IT.
COME ON...
BUT...
...


SO...
...YOU AGREE TO MARRY ME!?
WELL, ONLY AFTER MY DIVORCE BECOMES OFFICIAL.
TH-THANK YOU!
SIR! YOU MUSN'T GET TOO EXCITED!
.....
.....
.....
.....

100%
ILLEGAL
MANGA
DANCE
TILL
TOMORROW
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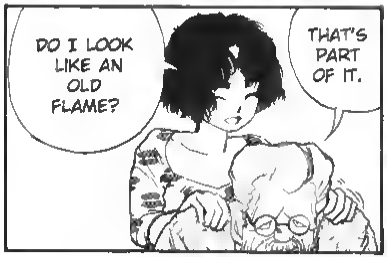
ACT TWELVE
SPOILED ROTTEN

WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO MARRY ME?
HMM... WELL...

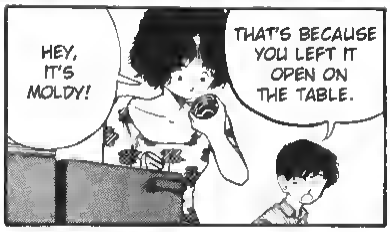

DO I LOOK LIKE AN OLD FLAME?
THAT'S PART OF IT.

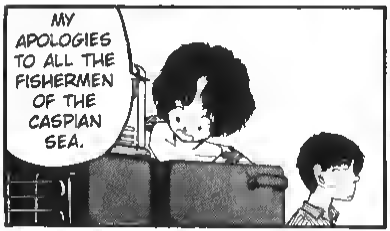
IS IT BECAUSE I'M YOUNG, BEAUTIFUL, CHARMING... AND GIVE GREAT MASSAGES?
THAT'S PART OF IT.

HONEY, I'M HOME!
I'M A BUSY GUY.
WHY DON'T YOU COME WITH ME NEXT TIME? WE'LL HAVE FUN
HEY, CHECK OUT TODAY'S GIFTS!
AT THE OLD MAN'S PLACE AGAIN?
WELL, HE FEEDS ME. AND BUYS ME STUFF. AND ALL I HAVE TO DO IN RETURN IS MASSAGE HIS SHOULDERS AND LISTEN TO HIM

WHAT ABOUT THAT STUFF YOU BROUGHT BACK A TON OF LAST TIME...CAVIAR TERRENE?
THAT'S RIGHT. WE'VE STILL GOT SOME.

I COMPLIMENTED HIS GREAT SELECTION AND HE OFFERED THEM TO ME. SAYS HE DOESN'T DRINK ANYMORE, ANYWAY.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU ACCEPTED! DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW EXPENSIVE ALL THIS LIQUOR IS?


HEY, IT'S MOLDY!
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU LEFT IT OPEN ON THE TABLE.


MY APOLOGIES TO ALL THE FISHERMEN OF THE CASPIAN SEA.

YOU AREN'T DONE WITH THE ACCOUNTING YET?
I CAN'T BALANCE THE BOOKS I'VE GOT TO START FROM SCRATCH.

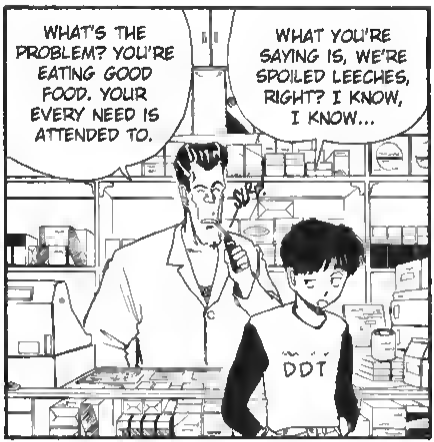
SO WHAT IF TEN THOUSAND YEN'S MISSING HERE OR THERE? FUDGE IT.
WE DON'T ALL HAVE RICH PATRONS.
HE DOESN'T GIVE ME MONEY. JUST PRESENTS.
WHAT'S THE DIFFER-ENCE?
LIGHTEN UP. LET'S HAVE A DRINK!
I'VE GOT TO FINISH BY TO-MORROW MORNING.
YOU JUST HAVE TO BALANCE THE BOOKS, RIGHT? WHY DON'T I SELL THESE TO FREDDY?
SELL THEM?
FREDDIE'S RICH RIGHT NOW

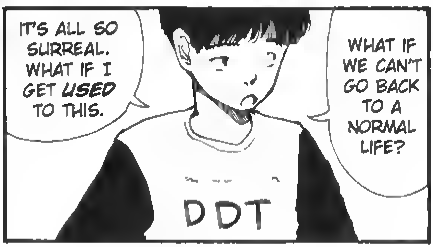
SO OF COURSE SUEKICHI ENDED UP HAVING A FEW DRINKS...
...
THAT'S RIGHT. I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF MAKING BREAKFAST
KEEP IT DOWN!
HUH?
KRAKL
KRAKK! SPARK! KRAK!
PRETTY!

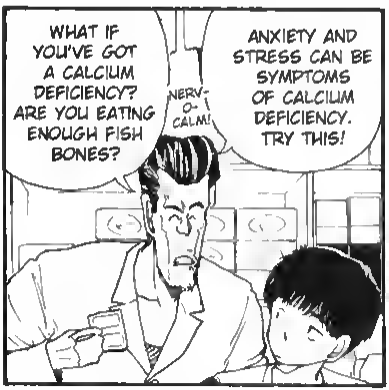
Y-YOU IDIOT. NO METAL!
DON'T TOUCH IT! IT LOOKS DANGEROUS!
KRAK
SPARK
KRAK
BOOM
AIEE!
TOLD YOU SO.
... ...
... ...
OH, YEAH. I WAS ON THE PHONE.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT... UH-HUH...THE MICROWAVE...I JUST RUINED BREAKFAST, AND THE MICROWAVE.
WELL, THEN...
GET OFF THE GODDAMN PHONE ALREADY!
HE'S DELIVERING ANOTHER MICROWAVE.
AND BREAK-FAST.

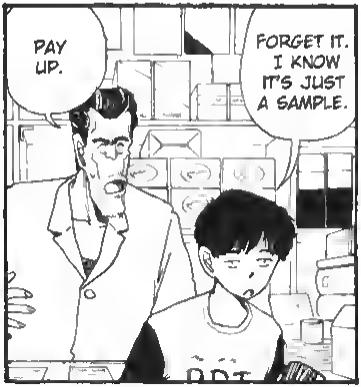
GOOD MORNING.
LET'S INVITE FREDDY AND HIS FRIENDS OVER!
THIS IS THE LIFE, HUH? THE ONLY DOWNSIDE IS GETTING FAT!
WE CAN'T EAT ALL THIS.

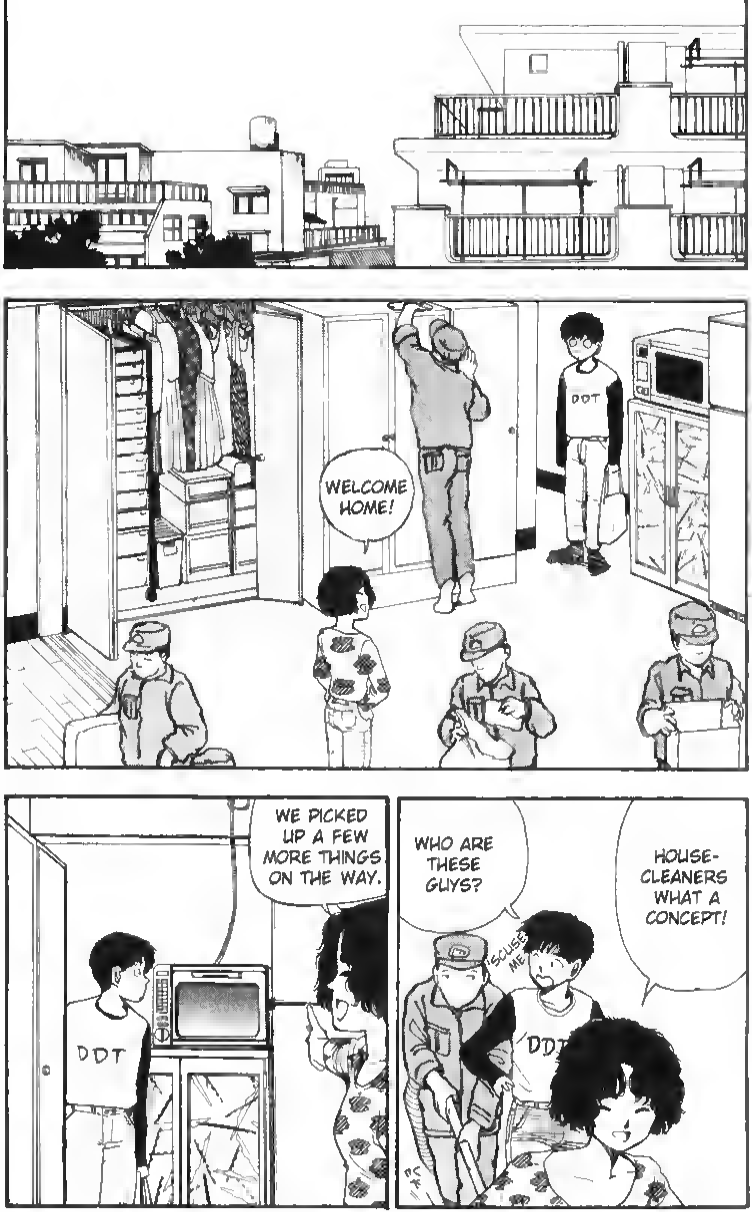
PHARMACY


WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? YOU'RE EATING GOOD FOOD. YOUR EVERY NEED IS ATTENDED TO.
WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS, WE'RE SPOILED LEECHES, RIGHT? I KNOW, I KNOW...
DDT


IT'S ALL SO SURREAL. WHAT IF I GET USED TO THIS.
WHAT IF WE CAN'T GO BACK TO A NORMAL LIFE?
DDT


WHAT IF YOU'VE GOT A CALCIUM DEFICIENCY? ARE YOU EATING ENOUGH FISH BONES?
NERV-O-CALM!
ANXIETY AND STRESS CAN BE SYMPTOMS OF CALCIUM DEFICIENCY. TRY THIS!


PAY UP.
FORGET IT. I KNOW IT'S JUST A SAMPLE.


WELCOME HOME!
DDT
WE PICKED UP A FEW MORE THINGS ON THE WAY.
DDT
WHO ARE THESE GUYS?
EXCUSE ME
HOUSE-CLEANERS WHAT A CONCEPT!
DDT

SURREAL...
LIKE A SITCOM SET, HUH?
I ALWAYS WANTED A SOFA LIKE THIS!
AYA...WE NEED TO TALK
NOW WHAT?
ANOTHER LECTURE? AREN'T YOU TOO YOUNG TO BE MAKING SPEECHES?
STOP KIDDING AROUND!

ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT WITH THIS!?
'COURSE I AM.
YOU MUST HAVE SPENT A MILLION YEN* TODAY ALONE!
THAT'S JUST POCKET CHANGE FOR THE OLD MAN.
HE THINKS IN BILLIONS!
*ABOUT $10,000
AREN'T YOU ASHAMED OF YOURSELF, SQUANDERING SOMEBODY ELSE'S HARD-EARNED MONEY!?
WELL I'M NOT. I WASN'T BROUGHT UP TO LIVE THIS LIFE OF PRIVILEGE!
THAT'S WHAT'S BOTHERING ME!

BE HONEST!
WHY ARE YOU MARRYING GENICHIRO?
WELL...
...I FIGURE IF I INHERIT *HIS* MONEY, THEN TACHIMI CAN'T ACCUSE ME OF BEING AFTER *YOUR* INHERITANCE

OKAY, BUT... WHY DO YOU HAVE TO *SPEND* SO MUCH OF IT *NOW* THEN?
I DO FEEL KINDA GUILTY ABOUT THAT...
WELL, GOOD FOR YOU. BUT IT'S NO FUN COUNTING EVERY LAST YEN FOR THE TROUPE WHILE YOU'RE SPENDING 50,000 YEN BILLS LIKE THEY'RE GOING OUT OF STYLE!
WE'RE REALLY IN THE RED THIS TIME...
WHY DON'T WE GET THE OLD MAN TO BE THE TROUPE'S *PATRON*!?
HUH?

THE TROUPE'S BROKE, RIGHT?
W-WELL, YES, BUT--
AND WE WON'T BE SPENDING HIS MONEY ON OURSELVES, SO IT ISN'T WRONG, RIGHT?
R-RIGHT, BUT--
"BUT," WHAT? THE MORE MONEY WE SPEND, THE HAPPIER WE MAKE THE OLD GEEZER!
...
I'M A GENIUS!
B-BUT WHAT MAKES YOU SO SURE...
...HE'LL GO FOR IT?

WHAT A..
...SPLENDID IDEA!
I WUV YOU!
COME, COME...
...SO THAT'S THE DEAL. NO STRINGS ATTACHED.
AND WE CAN SPEND AS MUCH AS WE LIKE!?
I CAN'T THINK OF A SCAM YOU COULD PULL OFF WITH A BANKRUPT THEATER TROUPE THIS MUST BE ON THE UP-AND-UP!
IT'S A DREAM COME TRUE! ART UNFETTERED BY FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS!
GOOD JOB, SUEKICHI! FOR ONCE...
WIPE THAT SKEPTICAL LOOK OFF YOUR FACE!

100%
ILLEGAL
MANGA
DANCE
TILL
TOMORROW
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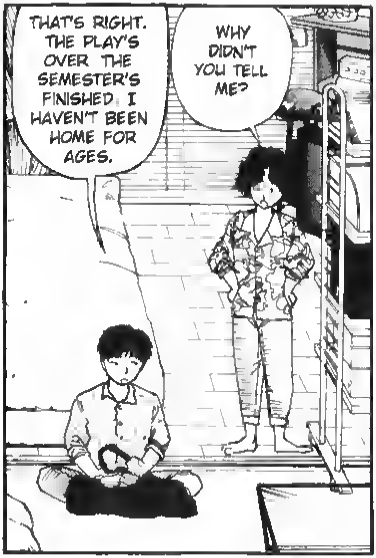
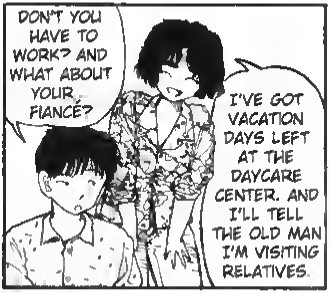
ACT THREE:
SUEKICHI GOES HOME (PART ONE)

FWOOSH

BLARGH!!
YOU ALL RIGHT?
WE'RE SINKING! SINKING, I TELL YOU! WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE!
ENOUGH, ALREADY!
DO I LOOK ALL RIGHT!? HOW LONG'VE WE BEEN ON THIS FLOATING MENACE?
THE SEA IS HARDLY EVEN CHOPPY. THE SHIP'S SAFE AND SOUND
BLARGH!
FOR SOME
WE'RE GOING DOWN! THIS IS THE END!
LET'S TAKE A MOMENT TO EXPLAIN HOW WE GOT HERE...
HOW CAN YOU BE SO CALM!?
YOU'RE VISITING YOUR FOLKS?


THAT'S RIGHT. THE PLAY'S OVER THE SEMESTER'S FINISHED. I HAVEN'T BEEN HOME FOR AGES.
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?

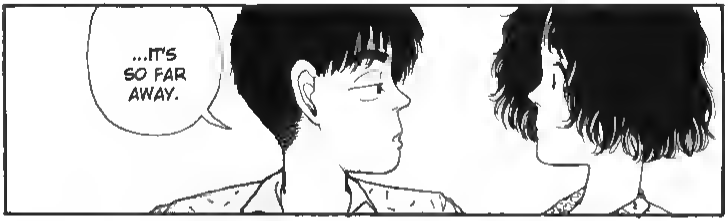
I'M COMING TOO


DON'T YOU HAVE TO WORK? AND WHAT ABOUT YOUR FIANCÉ?
I'VE GOT VACATION DAYS LEFT AT THE DAYCARE CENTER. AND I'LL TELL THE OLD MAN I'M VISITING RELATIVES.

YOUR FAMILY RUNS A LIGHTHOUSE, RIGHT? SUMMER BY THE SEA! SALTY BREEZES AND BIKINIS!

PLEASE? PRETTY PLEASE?
OKAY, BUT...

"BUT" WHAT? DON'T BE TOO ENTHUSIASTIC.
I'M GLAD YOUR COMING. IT'S JUST THAT.


...IT'S SO FAR AWAY.

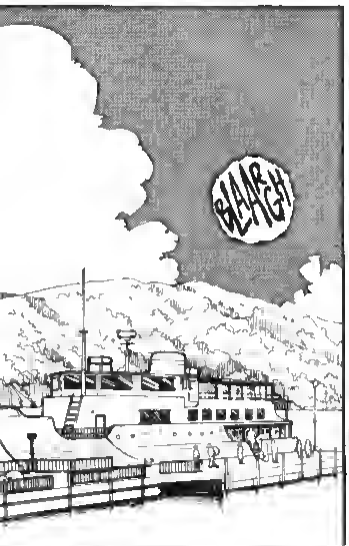
FWOOOOOOSH

YOU'RE KIDDING! 12 HOURS TO GO!?
JUST GO TO SLEEP AND WE'LL BE THERE WHEN YOU WAKE UP.

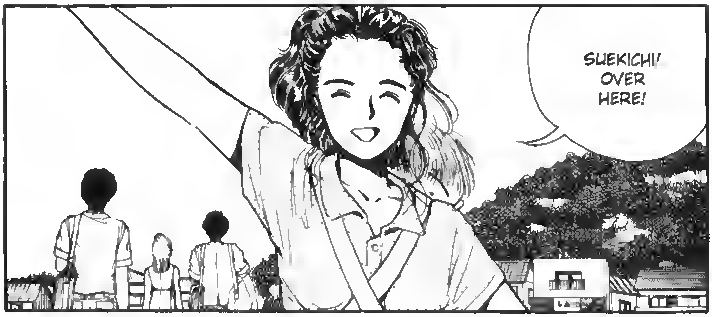
LIAR! SADIST! YOU'RE ENJOYING THIS, AREN'T YOU? HOW CAN SUCH A TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED CIVILIZATION HAVE SUCH A CRUEL MODE OF TRANSPORTATION!?
DON'T BLAME ME! YOU WANTED TO COME!

PAAA

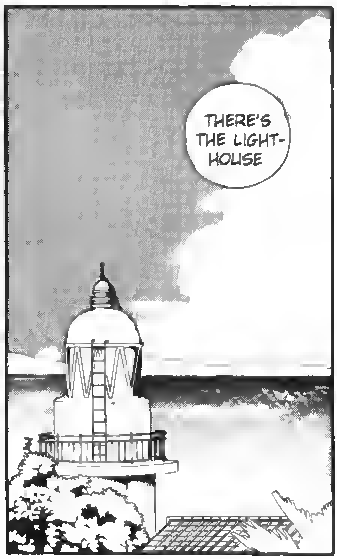
STOP! I WANNA GET OFF!
CALM DOWN, AYA.
SLOOOSH
LET ME OUT!

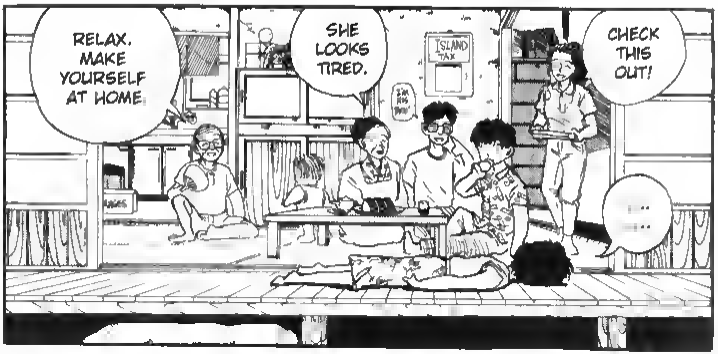

BLARGH

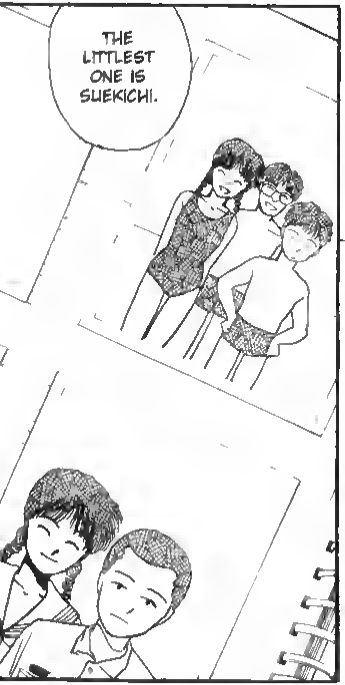
SOLID GROUND AT LAST.
LIAR. EVERY-THING'S STILL ROCKING...

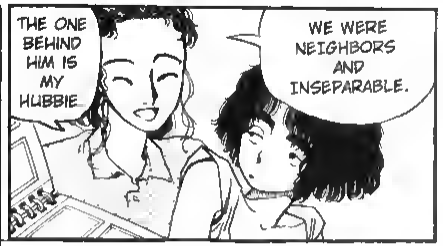

SUEKICHI! OVER HERE!

THIS IS MY SISTER-IN-LAW.
I'M SAKUKO.


THERE'S THE LIGHT-HOUSE


RELAX. MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME.
SHE LOOKS TIRED.
ISLAND TAXI
CHECK THIS OUT!
...
...


THE LITTLEST ONE IS SUEKICHI.

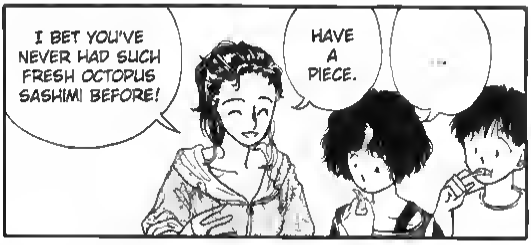

THE ONE BEHIND HIM IS MY HUBBIE.
WE WERE NEIGHBORS AND INSEPARABLE.

ENOUGH, SAKUKO. YOU'RE BORING OUR GUEST TO DEATH!
YOU'RE JUST EMBAR-RASSED.

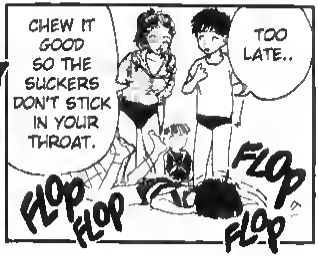
I KNOW YOU HAD A CRUSH ON ME!

D-DID NOT!
YOU'RE BLUSHING!
LET'S HIT THE BEACH. YOU'LL LOVE IT.
BUT SHE LOOKS SO WORN OUT...
SHE'S YOUNG AND STRONG. COME ON!
LOOK WHAT THAT FISHERMAN OVER THERE JUST GAVE ME!
YOU'RE GOING TO EAT THEM NOW?

SLISH


I BET YOU'VE NEVER HAD SUCH FRESH OCTOPUS SASHIMI BEFORE!
HAVE A PIECE.

MNCH
MNCH
FIP


CHEW IT GOOD SO THE SUCKERS DON'T STICK IN YOUR THROAT.
TOO LATE..
FLOP
FLOP
FLOP
FLOP

EWW... WHAT'S THAT?
WE CALL IT MEMENAMAKO HERE DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S CALLED IN TOKYO...
THEY DON'T HAVE IT IN TOKYO.

I-I THINK I'LL PASS THIS TIME.
TRY IT. IT'S THE BEST!

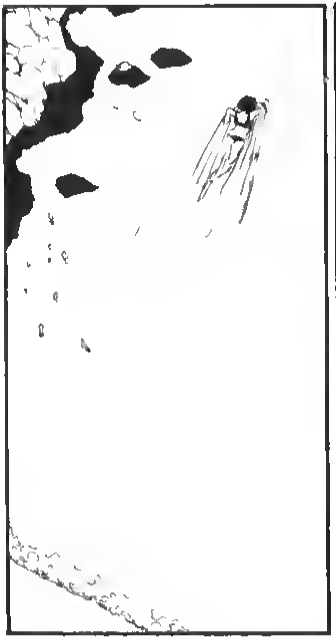
JGGL
JGGL

TWITCH
TWITCH
AIEE!
THEY CAN BE PRETTY BOISTEROUS.

WHAT'S THE MATTER? STILL SEASICK?
IT WAS A LITTLE TOO FRESH FOR HER.
...
HOW ABOUT A BITE OF ..
...THIS THEN?
IS-IS THAT A BLOW-FISH!?
INDEED, IT IS.
THAT'S TOO DANGER-OUS!
I GUESS THIS MANGA HAS DISPENSED WITH THE REALITIES OF MARINE BIOLOGY
NO PROBLEM I HAVEN'T SCREWED IT UP YET
IF YOU HAD, YOU WOULDN'T BE HERE.
EAT UP!
YOU JUST HAVE TO RIP OUT THE GUTS.
YOU'RE PLAYING WITH FIRE.

YOU MUST BE HUNGRY AFTER ALL THAT PUKING. THIS IS A REAL DELICACY FOR A CITY SLICKER!
DON'T DO IT, AYA! YOUR STOMACH'S WEAK. YOU'LL GET SICK.
RUMBL
WHA--!?
SNOOP
YOU HAVE TO BE ON YOUR GUARD.
HAVE ANOTHER PIECE.
FWEEE
HUH?
FWIP FWAP FWUP

YOU DIDN'T GET ALL THE POISON OUT! THAT WOULD HAVE KILLED ME!
A LITTLE POISON IS WHAT GIVES IT ITS KICK.
KAHHH KAHHH KA-KAHHHH



AHH...

FEELING BETTER?
BUSH

ARE YOU FOLLOW-ING ME?
I JUST WANT TO UNDERSTAND SUEKICHI'S TASTE IN WOMEN.
WANNA SWIM OUT TO THAT ROCK?
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU'RE A GOOD SWIMMER?
SEEMS LIKE THEY'RE HITTING IT OFF...
I GUESS SO
WORN OUT?
...NOT REALLY.
NICE ISLAND, HUH?
I DIDN'T REALIZE SUEKICHI GREW UP IN SUCH A WILD PLACE.

WHEN SUEKICHI MOVED HERE FROM THE MAINLAND, HE DIDN'T FIT IN WITH THE ISLAND KIDS. EVERYBODY PICKED ON HIM.
NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE THE DAY THAT WIMPY SUEKICHI BROUGHT HOME A GIRL!
GUESS HOW HIS DAD DESCRIBED YOU WHEN WE HEARD YOU WERE COMING...
HE SAID YOU WERE JUST LIKE ME!
THAT'S A COMPLI-MENT...
WE BETTER HEAD BACK BEFORE THEY START TO WORRY.
HUH?

SH-SH-SH-SH-SH-SH-
A SHARK, OF COURSE
"OF COURSE"?
DON'T WORRY. THEY HARDLY EVER BITE.
COMING?
OH. THERE'S ANOTHER ONE.
NO, THANKS! I'M TOO YOUNG TO BE EATEN!
WHAT A CHICKEN ANOTHER SMOKE AND THEY'LL BE GONE.
THEY'RE STILL OUT THERE...
MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST HEAD HOME.

TO BE CONCLUDED IN DANCE TILL TOMORROW VOL. 7!

EDITOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS

What makes *Dance Till Tomorrow* a premier adult comic?

Certainly not the hot sex.

No, it's the realistic plots and neurotic characters engaging in the hot sex!

Who can't relate to Suekichi and Aya's ambivalence and fear of commitment? Who hasn't been manipulated or neglected by a loved one to the point of hysteria? Who wouldn't prefer to see the *Dance Till Tomorrow* cast suffer that process and master our own angst?

Come to think of it, if you blend together three of my favorite titles—*Dance Till Tomorrow*, *Marionette Generation*, and *Magical Pokémon Journey*—you've got the story of my love life! (But don't tell that to the Viz rewriter who's my boyfriend....)

What I'm trying to say is this. ***Dance*** is a smart manga for smart people.

And if you like it like I do, you might like the three titles to the right on this page, too.

Annette Roman
Rewriter of *Dance Till Tomorrow*

If you like DANCE till TOMORROW try these other titles from Viz!

Crying Freeman An erotic thriller about a humble potter forced to become a deadly assassin by a secret criminal organization! Super realistic art (think practically photographic naked people!) by master draftsman **Ryoichi Ikegami**

• ***Maison Ikkoku*** This 14-volume series by **Viz** favorite **Rumiko Takahashi** is a romantic comedy about a college student who falls in love with his widowed young landlady. No unclothed T and A, but an entertaining plot, complex characters, and lots of wacky hijinks.

• ***Nausicaä of the Valley of Wind*** Why am I including this instead of the erotic/political thriller ***Sanctuary*** or the self-explanatorily titled ***Voyeurs*** and ***Voyeurs Inc***? Because if you appreciate the well-drawn (in both senses of the word) characters and plot of ***Dance***, you'll find the same qualities in this fantasy tale about a young heroine striving to save a feudal world from environmental disaster. Created by **Hayao Miyazaki**, the brilliant director of ***Spirited Away***, winner of the 2003 Academy Award for ***Best Animated Feature.***

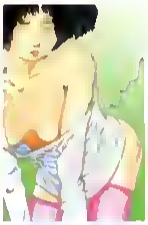
VIZ Graphic Novel

$12.95 USA/$20.95 CAN

editor's choice

DANCE till TOMORROW

Suekichi has "inherited" his great-granddad's, er, stamp collection. His lawyer claims it's worth millions—but to collect, Suekichi must graduate, marry, get a job...is that likely, considering the lure of the arts found in his off-campus Bondage Horse Theater Troupe? Or the visceral thrill of living with his involuntary roomie, a cultured, fugitive Yakuza killer? And now is his sometimes-girlfriend Aya about to leave him for a mom matum millionaim? Like, one three times his age?



"This is not the plot of a saucy new network melodrama but that of Dance Till Tomorrow ... Yamamoto's work occupies the racier end of the manga spectrum."

—The New Yorker

www.viz.com

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VIZ

editor's choice

DANCE till TOMORROW

STORY AND ART BY NAOKI YAMAMOTO